FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-96-076
Thursday
18 April 1996

Daily Report
Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-96-076 **CONTENTS** *18 April 1996*

NOTICE: An * indicates material that may not be disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Inter-Arab: Algerian, Moroccan Foreign Ministers Arrive for League Meeting *[MENA]* 1
Inter-Arab: France's de Charette Arrives for League Meeting *[MENA]* 1
Inter-Arab: Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives for League Meeting *[MENA]* 1
Inter-Arab: 'Abd-al-Majid Meets Buwayz, Ben Yahya, Musa on Lebanon *[MENA]* 1
Inter-Arab: Syria's al-Shar' Says Attacks Fail To Weaken Hizballah *[MENA]* 1
Inter-Arab: Foreign Ministers Open 'Emergency' Meeting on Lebanon *[MENA]* 2
Inter-Arab: Musa Addresses Arab League Council Emergency Meeting *[MENA]* 3
Inter-Arab: Saudi Foreign Minister Expresses Solidarity With Lebanon *[SPA]* 4
Inter-Arab: Syria's al-Shar' Addresses League Meeting *[Damascus Radio]* 4
Inter-Arab: Syria's al-Shar' Criticizes Israel's 'Barbaric Aggression' *[MENA]* 4
Inter-Arab: Arab League Reaches Accord on Lebanon *[KUNA]* 5
Inter-Arab: Arab League Issues Statement on Lebanon *[MENA]* 5
Inter-Arab: Ministers Hold Sideline Meeting To Discuss Lebanon Solution *[MENA]* 6
Inter-Arab: Buwayz, de Charette Discuss Results of Talks *[Cairo Radio]* 7
Inter-Arab: Buwayz Expects U.S. To Use Veto at UNSC Talks on Lebanon *[MENA]* 7
Inter-Arab: Al-Shar'—Parties Should Return to July 1993 Agreement *[MENA]* 8
Inter-Arab: Saudi Minister 'Happy' With Results of League Meeting *[SPA]* 8

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: Islamic Jihad Said To Order More Suicide Attacks in Israel *[AFP]* 8
Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Sends Message of Support to Lebanon's al-Hariri *[Jericho VOP]* 9
Palestinian Affairs: 'Urayqat Briefs U.S., French Envoys on Israeli 'Siege' *[Jericho VOP]* 9
Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Forms Committee To Draft Political Report for PNC *[Jericho VOP]* 9

Arab-Israeli Talks

Arab-Israeli Talks: Israeli Campaign on Lebanon Explained *[London INDEPENDENT 18 Apr]* 9

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Algeria: Zeroual—Presidency Will Not Open Dialogue With FIS *[London AL-HAYAH 17 Apr]* 12
Algeria: Sonatrach Oil Company To Invest $18 Billion by Year 2000 *[Algiers Radio]* 12
Algeria: Security Service Eliminates Criminal Group *[Algiers TV]* 12

Egypt

Egypt: 17 Tourists Killed, 20 Wounded in Attack on Cairo Hotel *[MENA]* 12
Egypt: Cabinet Condemns Israeli 'Aggression' Against Lebanon *[Cairo Radio]* 12
Egypt: Mubarak Receives Saudi Foreign Minister al-Faysal *[MENA]* 13
Egypt: Writer Says Perry Erred in Threatening Libya From Cairo *[AL-AHRAM 8 Apr]* 13

Libya

Libya: Al-Qadhdhafi Claims al-Tarhunah Tunnel for Irrigation *[JANA]* 13

Libya: South Africa's Nzo—No Chemical Weapons Plant in Libya *[SAPA]* 14

Morocco

Morocco: Foreign Ministry Agrees To Mediate Between Russia, Chechnya *[Rabat TV]* 14
Morocco: Paper Assails U.S. Policy on Libya *[AL-ITTIHAD AL-ISHTIRAKI 9 Apr]* 14

Sudan

Sudan: Khartoum Reportedly Expels 150-200 'Afghan-Arabs' *[London AL-HAYAH 17 Apr]* 15
Sudan: Military Spokesman Says Infighting Among Rebels *[Omdurman Radio]* 15
Sudan: Vice President Invites Garang Faction To Join Peace Process *[Omdurman Radio]* 15

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Bahrain: 'Arsonists' Set Fire to School Offices *[AFP]* 17

Kuwait

Kuwait: Ambulances With Medical Aid Depart for Lebanon *[KUNA]* 17

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia: King Affirms Support for Lebanon *[Riyadh TV]* 17
Saudi Arabia: Saudis 'Will Not Tolerate Demonstrations During Pilgrimage' *[Riyadh Radio]* 17
Saudi Arabia: Customs Officers Foil Attempt To Smuggle Explosives *[Riyadh Radio]* 18

Yemen

Yemen: Cabinet Condemns Israeli 'Aggression' Against Lebanon *[Sanaa Radio]* 18
Yemen: Iranian Foreign Ministry Official Arrives With Message for al-Iryani *[Sanaa Radio]* 18

IRAQ

Iraq: Al-Anbari—'Vicious Circle' at UN Oil-for-Food Talks *[London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI 17 Apr]* 19
Iraq: Saddam Explains Oil Policy to OPEC Officials *[INA]* 19
Iraq: OPEC Secretary General 'Welcomes' Iraq's Return to Market *[INA]* 19
Iraq: Paper Calls For 'Prompt Action' To End Israeli 'Aggression' *[INA]* 20
Iraq: Regime Reportedly Killed 500 at Abu Ghurayb in Mar *[KUNA]* 20
Iraq: Defector al-Khazraji Interviewed on Internal Situation *[London AL-HAYAH 16 Apr]* 21

ISRAEL

Israel: Peres—No Option Except Arrangement With Syria, Lebanon *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Israel: Beilin Meets Butrus-Ghali, Says No Date To End Operation *[Jerusalem Radio]* 27
Israel: More on Disagreements With U.S. Over Lebanon Understandings *[HA'ARETZ 18 Apr]* 27
Israel: Army Said Demanding Different Cease-Fire Terms Than Government *[Jerusalem TV]* 28
Israel: France's de Charette Informs Baraq of Lebanese Position *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Israel: Peres Says France Should Coordinate Positions With U.S. *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Israel: Senior Official Accuses France of Trying To 'Upstage' U.S. *[Jerusalem Radio]* 29
Israel: French Foreign Minister To Leave for Cairo, Damascus, Beirut *[Paris TV]* 29
Israel: Minister Faults Peres, Seeks Inner Cabinet Hand in Campaign *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Israel: Peres Sees Operation Every Few Years If No Permanent Accord *[HA'ARETZ 18 Apr]* 30
Israel: Air Force Raids Targets North of Security Zone *[Jerusalem Radio]* 30
Israel: Labor, Netanyahu Reject Sharon's Call To Expand Security Zone *[Jerusalem TV]* 30

Israel: More on Raids on PKK; IDF Spokesman Refuses Comment *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Israel: Gen. Vilna'i on Katyushas, Avoiding Harm to Civilians *[Jerusalem Radio]* 31
Israel: Eighth Katyusha Volley in West Galilee; No Casualties *[Jerusalem Radio]* 32
Israel: 2d Katyusha Salvo Fired at Galilee; No Injuries Reported *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Israel: Peres Says Permanent Status Talks To Start 4 May *[Tel Aviv Radio]* 33
Israel: Habash Allowed To Enter Autonomy; PA Seeks 'Abbas' Entry *[Jerusalem Radio]* 33
Israel: Security Chiefs Say 'Arafat 'Methodically' Destroying Hamas *[Jerusalem TV]* 33
Israel: Polls Show Peres-Netanyahu Gap Unaffected by Lebanon Action *[Jerusalem Radio]* 34

JORDAN

Jordan: Parliament Statement Condemns 'Brutal Israeli Attacks' *[JORDAN TIMES 19 Apr]* 35
Jordan: Deputies Call For 'Annulment' of Peace Treaty With Israel *[THE STAR 24 Apr]* 35
Jordan: Opposition Parties Form Committee in Support of Lebanon *[AL-DUSTUR 18 Apr]* 36
Jordan: Al-Kabariti Phones Lebanon's Buwayz, Meets Foreign Envoys *[Amman Radio]* 36
Jordan: Paper—U.S.-Backed Plan Aims 'To Explode the Domestic Front' *[AL-MAJD 15 Apr]* 36
Jordan: Daily Assails U.S. Block of UNSC Meeting on Lebanon *[JORDAN TIMES 17 Apr]* 37
Jordan: Palestinian Official's Visit Reportedly Fails To Improve Ties *[AL-ITTIHAD 14 Apr]* 38

LEBANON

Lebanon: AFP Carries Report on 8-Point French Peace Plan 39
Lebanon: Beirut Radio Cites AFP Report on French Cease-Fire Plan 39
Lebanon: Al-Hariri Declines U.S. Offer in 'Current Form' *[London AL-HAYAH 17 Apr]* 39
Lebanon: Speaker Birri Said Not To Approve U.S. Initiative *[VOL]* 41
Lebanon: Ministerial Meeting Discusses Cease-Fire Initiatives *[Beirut Radio]* 41
Lebanon: Radio Cites U.S. Request to Hizballah To Stop Katyushas *[VOL]* 42
Lebanon: Israeli Army To Resume Action in al-Nabatiyah Area 'Soon' *[Voice of the South]* 42
Lebanon: Israeli Army To Resume Operations 1300 GMT *[Voice of the South]* 42
Lebanon: Israeli Army To Continue Operations During Night *[Voice of the South]* 42
Lebanon: Army Command Describes Attack on al-Nabatiyah as 'Massacre' *[Beirut Radio]* 42
Lebanon: Pro-Israeli Radio Denies Naval Shelling of Villages *[Voice of the South]* 42
Lebanon: Israeli Security Sources React to al-Maqdah Threat *[Voice of the South]* 43
Lebanon: AFP—Hizballah Staying Intact Despite Israeli Onslaught 43
Lebanon: Al-Hariri Says 'We Can Control' Hizballah *[London TV]* 43
Lebanon: Islamic Resistance Claims To Infiltrate North Israel *[Beirut Radio]* 44
Lebanon: Qallawayh Raided; Citizens Leave on Foot With UNIFIL Help *[Beirut Radio]* 44
Lebanon: Israeli Aircraft, Warships Bombard Southern Towns *[Beirut Radio]* 44
Lebanon: SLA Radio Advises Evacuees To Move Northward Only *[Voice of the South]* 45
Lebanon: Citizens Warned To Keep Away From Hizballah Locations *[Voice of the South]* 45

SYRIA

Syria: Vice President Discusses Lebanon, Peace Process *[Damascus TV]* 46
Syria: Al-Shar', French Counterpart Exchange Ideas *[Damascus Radio]* 47
Syria: Al-Shar', Russian Foreign Minister Primakov Discuss Lebanon Developments *[Damascus Radio]* 47
Syria: Damascus Reports al-Shar' Cairo Statements on Lebanon *[Damascus Radio]* 47
Syria: Radio Says Syria To Remain Steadfast, Continue Struggle *[Damascus Radio]* 48
Syria: World Community Urged To Shoulder Responsibility on Lebanon *[Damascus Radio]* 49

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Taleban Confirms Agreement To Hold Talks in Tehran *[AFP]* 50

Afghanistan: Iran's Borujerdi Calls For 'Cessation of Hostilities' *[IRNA]* 50
Afghanistan: Iranian Official Holds Talks With Mas'ud, Akbari *[Tehran International]* 51
Afghanistan: Defense Ministry Denies Reports of Taleban Reinforcements *[Tehran International]* 51
Afghanistan: Taleban Rocket Attack Hits Turkish Embassy in Kabul *[Kabul Radio]* 51
Afghanistan: IRNA on Conflicting Fighting Reports in Ghowr, Herat *[IRNA]* 51

India

India: Prime Minister Warns of 'Arms Race' in South Asia *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 15 Apr]* 52
India: Central Team Holds Talks With Militant Leaders in Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 53
India: Central Team Reviews Steps for Holding Elections in Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 53
India: Ministry Welcomes EU Call To Pakistan on Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 53
India: Minister Denies BJP Charge on Purchase of Russian Arms *[Delhi Radio]* 54
India: Envoy to UN Critical of OIC Chief's Statement on Kashmir *[Delhi Radio]* 54
India: 8 'Foreign Mercenaries' Among 10 Killed in Jammu *[Delhi Radio]* 54
India: Rao Criticizes Party's Breakaway, Rebel Groups *[Delhi TV]* 54
India: BJP Leader 'Not in Favor of Any Change' in Campaign Speech *[Delhi Radio]* 54
India: Janata Dal Party Issues Election Manifesto *[THE HINDUSTAN TIMES 16 Apr]* 55
India: Text of BJP Election Broadcast Ordered Altered *[Delhi Radio]* 56
India: Congress-I Rules Out Alliance With BJP After Elections *[Delhi Radio]* 56
India: Election Commission Rejects Malpractice Charge Against Rao *[Delhi Radio]* 56
India: National Front, Left Parties Announce Common Poll Program *[Delhi Radio]* 56

Iran

Iran: Velayati Urges UN To Double Efforts To End Israeli Attacks *[IRNA]* 57
Iran: Hizballah Official Calls For Halt to Israeli Attacks *[IRNA]* 57
Iran: Commentary Calls Israeli Attacks Counterproductive *[Tehran Radio]* 58
Iran: Radio Views Deployment of Israeli Military Planes in Turkey *[Tehran International]* 58
Iran: Ulema Condemn Israeli Raids on Lebanon *[IRNA]* 59
Iran: Qom Theologians Protest Israeli Raids on Lebanon *[IRNA]* 59
Iran: Editorial Urges EU To Prevent 'Gordian Knot' in Lebanon *[IRAN NEWS 15 Apr]* 59
Iran: RESALAT Views Reasons Behind Turkish-Israeli Accord *[6 Apr]* 60
Iran: Daily Says Arab Rulers Should Confront Israeli Aggression *[KAYAN INTERNATIONAL 15 Apr]* 61
Iran: Commentary Denounces Israeli Military Agreement With Turkey *[Tehran International]* 61
Iran: Turkish Press, TV Anti-Iranian Propaganda Criticized *[KEYHAN 3 Apr]* 62
Iran: KEYHAN on Ron Brown's Death, American Objectives in Bosnia *[8 Apr]* 63
Iran: Tehran Radio Views Outcome of Velayati's Visit to Pakistan 64
Iran: Atomic Energy Chief Complains About Israeli Reactor Leaks *[IRNA]* 64
Iran: Common Views on Israeli 'Atomic Threats' Shared With Egypt *[IRNA]* 65
Iran: Diplomat—People of Region Do Not Trust White House *[IRNA]* 65
Iran: Election Candidate Majid Ansari Comments on Policies *[TEHRAN TIMES 14 Apr]* 65
Iran: Voters Urged To Choose Fundamentalists in Second Round *[RESALAT 10 Apr]* 66
Iran: Majles Candidate Attacks Interparty Feuding *[IRAN NEWS 14 Apr]* 67
Iran: Presidential Adviser Responds to Liberal Accusation *[BAHMAN 13 Apr]* 68

Pakistan

Pakistan: Committee To Discuss Suing U.S. Over Weapons Dispute *[THE NEWS 18 Apr]* 68
Pakistan: Senior Official Calls U.S. Arms Decision 'Vindication' *[THE NATION 18 Apr]* 70
Pakistan: Editorial Denies U.S. Weapons To Cause 'Arms Race' *[KHABRAIN 17 Apr]* 70
Pakistan: Minister Says Air Force Capable of Meeting Indian Challenge *[Islamabad Radio]* 71
Pakistan: Israeli Raids on Lebanon Condemned, Withdrawal Demanded *[Islamabad Radio]* 71

Pakistan: Velayati, Bhutto Discuss Lebanon, Afghan Issues *[Tehran TV]* 72
Pakistan: 'Peaceful' Solution to Afghan Issue Agreed With Iran *[Islamabad Radio]* 72
Pakistan: Iranian Foreign Minister Holds Meeting With Afghan Leaders *[IRNA]* 72
Pakistan: Iran's Velayati Sees No U.S. Role in Afghan Issue *[THE FRONTIER POST 17 Apr]* 72
Pakistan: Iran's Velayati Vows Continued Efforts for Afghan Solution *[Islamabad Radio]* 73
Pakistan: TV Reports Bhutto's Remarks to Raphel on Kashmir *[Islamabad TV]* 73
Pakistan: 2 Cooperation Agreements Signed With Jordan *[Islamabad Radio]* 74

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka: LTTE Dispatch Notes Setbacks to Military Action *[Tamil Eelam News WWW 14 Apr]* 74
Sri Lanka: 4 Terrorists Killed in Trincomalee *[Colombo International]* 74
Sri Lanka: Editorial Warns of Latest Activity by LTTE 'Terrorists' *[DAILY NEWS 18 Apr]* .. 75

Inter-Arab Affairs

Inter-Arab: Algerian, Moroccan Foreign Ministers Arrive for League Meeting

NC1704171896 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1625 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA)—Taieb Fassi Fihri, Moroccan secretary of state for foreign affairs; and Ahmed Attaf, Algerian minister of foreign affairs, arrived in Cairo this afternoon to participate in the emergency meeting of the Arab foreign ministers which began today. It is to be recalled that the Arab foreign ministers will discuss the continuing Israeli acts of aggression against south Lebanon.

Inter-Arab: France's de Charette Arrives for League Meeting

NC1704180196 Cairo MENA in English 1722 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, April 17 (MENA)—French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette arrived here this evening coming from Israel on a one-day visit to Egypt. The French minister is currently on a tour of the region comprising Syria, Israel, Lebanon and Egypt in a bid to contain the current Israeli-Lebanese crisis.

Israel today continued its military aggressions against Lebanon for the seventh consecutive day.

Inter-Arab: Saudi Foreign Minister Arrives for League Meeting

NC1704121396 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA)—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived in Cairo at noon today heading a delegation to take part in the emergency meeting of the Arab League Ministerial Council, which opened earlier today at the League's Secretariat.

The Arab foreign ministers will discuss the repeated Israeli aggression on south Lebanon.

Inter-Arab: 'Abd-al-Majid Meets Buwayz, Ben Yahya, Musa on Lebanon

NC1704111996 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1005 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA)—Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid met Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz and Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya this morning. They discussed south Lebanon in light of the Israeli military escalation and the continuing attacks on the south.

A responsible Arab League source stated that the meeting also reviewed the Arab League Secretariat's memorandum regarding current developments in south Lebanon. The Lebanese foreign minister also presented a comprehensive report on events and Israeli violations in the south.

The source noted that a draft resolution will be issued following the Arab foreign ministers' meeting. This draft resolution will be presented to the Arab League Council meeting to be held later today.

The source said the Council will hold an opening session during which 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Habib Ben Yahya, and Faris Buwayz will deliver speeches expressing the stances of the Arab League and Lebanon on current developments in south Lebanon. This session will be followed by a closed session.

[In a related report Cairo MENA in Arabic at 1030 GMT on 17 April carries the following Cairo-datelined item:

["Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today met [Egyptian] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. Musa stressed that Egypt stands alongside the Lebanese people.

["He said in a statement that today we have the occasion to study how to handle the current situation in a way that secures the rights of the Lebanese people and protects them as well as protecting the peace process.

["Answering a question on the Sharm al-Shaykh summit, plans to handle terrorism, and how events in Lebanon can be categorized as terrorism, 'Amr Musa said the Sharm al-Shaykh summit protects the peace process. What is happening in Lebanon now is a threat to the peace process. He clarified that the broad message of the Sharm al-Shaykh summit is to maintain peace. It is a response to all the events in the region, in and around Lebanon."]

Inter-Arab: Syria's al-Shar' Says Attacks Fail To Weaken Hizballah

NC1704124796 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1150 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA)—Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' has stated that the Israeli aggression against south Lebanon is remote from peace, a fact confirmed by the major Israeli offensive on south Lebanon. In a statement to reporters before the Arab foreign ministers began their meeting, al-Shar' said that Israel does not want the Arab countries to be stable or its neighbors to be safe. He stressed that the Israeli attacks have not affected Hizballah's force, as Hizballah has not lost one member in the past few days.

Inter-Arab: Foreign Ministers Open 'Emergency' Meeting on Lebanon

NC1704113496 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1105 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA)—The emergency meeting of the Arab League Ministerial Council began at the League's Secretariat at noon today chaired by Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben-Yahya, whose country chairs the current session of the Arab League Council.

At Lebanon's request, the Council will discuss the Lebanese arena in light of the Israeli aggression on south Lebanon and Beirut.

Some 16 states are taking part in the meeting. They are: Egypt, Syria, Palestine, Kuwait, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Libya, Qatar, Morocco, Yemen, Sudan, Jordan, United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Tunisia, and Algeria in addition to six permanent delegates representing Somalia, Iraq, the Sultanate of Oman, the Comoros Islands, Djibouti, and Mauritania.

The meeting will discuss a full report on the situation in south Lebanon and a draft resolution to be submitted by Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz on the need to step up the implementation of UN Resolution 425, which provides for Israel's withdrawal from south Lebanon.

Delivering a speech at the Arab League Council's emergency session, Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid stressed that Israel's expansion of the scope of its military operations in south Lebanon—attacking vital facilities, killing or wounding many innocent civilians, and displacing approximately half a million people—proves that Israel intends to empty south Lebanon of its population, prevent normal life there, and cause heavy damage to Lebanon's infrastructure at a time when Lebanon is seeking to consolidate its economy after a destructive 14-year war.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that the Israeli actions—which have reached the point of armed aggression against the security, peace, and inviolability of an Arab country—is clear proof of its utter disdain for all international laws and norms and even the agreements that Israel itself has signed. He noted that the election campaign in Israel is beginning to dominate the strategic decision for peace, something which poses dangers for the entire region.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid said that Lebanon's demand for a cease-fire and total Israeli withdrawal to the international borders to enable Lebanon to extend its authority throughout its national territory is legitimate and efforts must be made to realize it. Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid warned Israel that it cannot enjoy security and stability while it continues to occupy Arab territory. He said that Israel must realize that Arab public opinion is very angry about its actions and denounces them. He stressed that the peace that Israel wants as part of its concepts based on aggression, frightening civilians, and killing women and children will not be attained. He pointed out that a durable peace must be based on a commitment to the resolutions of international legitimacy and the principle of land for peace.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid called on the UN Security Council and the two cosponsors of the [Madrid] Peace Conference to shoulder their international responsibility by halting Israeli aggression against Lebanon, preventing the continuing Israeli violations of Lebanon, and implementing Security Council Resolution 425, which stipulates Israeli withdrawal from the Lebanese territory. He called for preparations for an Arab summit, even a minisummit, to discuss where the current state of the Arab nation now that it is faced with the challenge of "to be or not to be."

Dr. 'Abd-al-Majid appealed to Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, whose country chairs the current Arab League session, to respond by calling a summit to fulfill our hopes and to discuss the issues that will preserve our Arab nation's cohesion and solidarity and consolidate its security and stability.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Fariz Buwayz described the blatant Israeli aggression against his country as premeditated and prearranged and said it is aimed at obvious targets in response to elections considerations inside Israel.

In his speech to the emergency meeting, Buwayz linked what is happening in Lebanon and the recently signed Israeli-Turkish agreement on military cooperation, stressing that it is part of a well-designed plan by the Israeli Government to blunt the negotiations on the peace process.

Buwayz accused Israel of seeking by its aggressions against Lebanon to create security, social, and economic problems with the aim of rekindling the civil war in Lebanon. It wants to do this by forcing the displaced citizens to move from south to north and expanding the occupied border strip to the al-Litani River so as to create a security area for itself in keeping with its criteria and concept. He said that the Lebanese communities of all affiliations have never been as united and cohesive as they are now following the barbaric Israeli aggression.

Buwayz stressed that the Israeli aggression has only harmed civilians and has had no effect on Hizballah's targets or positions, as Israel is claiming.

He said that the recent U.S. cease-fire initiative violates the resolutions of international legitimacy, especially Security Council Resolution 425, and uses the pretext of protecting the safety of Lebanese citizens in order to prevent the firing of Katyusha rockets at Israel.

He called on the Arab countries to take a united stand to end this crisis, noting that the danger from Israeli is not restricted to Lebanon alone but threatens all Arab countries. He said: There must be a differentiation between terrorism—which is condemned by everyone—and resistance to occupation. He added that the Lebanese resistance is defending its territorial integrity, and this is legitimate according to international law.

Faris Buwayz warned Israel not to get involved again in what he called the "Lebanese quagmire" as it did in 1982. He said: If it does so, it will not be able to extricate itself, will be forced to deploy a large number of troops, and will be attacked by the Lebanese resistance.

He revealed that Israel's losses during its current aggression against Lebanon exceeds all its losses in all its Arab wars and that Israel miscalculated when it entered the Lebanese arena.

He underlined his country's commitment to the constants of peace based on the principle of land for peace, the implementation of international legitimacy's resolutions, and the return to the international borders between Lebanon and Israel. He said: Israel's security will be achieved when this objective is met.

Concluding his speech, Buwayz called on the Arab League Council to act to rebuff the dangers threatening the region, adopt a resolution backing Lebanon, form a higher committee for an immediate cease-fire, and save the peace process through political action.

Inter-Arab: Musa Addresses Arab League Council Emergency Meeting

NC1704173896 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1700 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has called on Israel to cease fire in Lebanon and withdraw immediately in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 425, which provides for the Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon.

In a speech he delivered at the emergency meeting of the Arab League Ministerial Council today, Musa said that Israel's continued occupation of south Lebanon indicates the continued desire to drive that occupation out by force. He added that Israel's withdrawal is crucial and that it should be done through understanding and negotiations.

Musa voiced Egypt's support for the Lebanese Government's stance and its proposed approach to current developments in south Lebanon, noting that Egypt stands by Lebanon at the UN Security Council and all international forums in reiterating its rejection of what is happening to Lebanon and to peace.

Musa said in his speech that the Egyptian delegation at the UN Security Council will back all the Lebanese proposals and respond to Lebanon's wishes, since Egypt is a Council member.

He pointed out that the peace we want is one based on Israel's full withdrawal from the occupied territories and on restoring the Palestinian people's right to self-determination. He affirmed that anything to the contrary will conflict with our policy and the goals we are working for.

He pointed out that the peacemakers summit in Sharm al-Shaykh addressed a clear message to Israel—namely, that the goal is to achieve a balanced, just, and all-embracing peace.

Musa suggested that this emergency meeting be called "the meeting of wrath," because of the threat facing the peace process and the general atmosphere we wanted to create so that all could reach a just and peaceful settlement.

'Amr Musa emphasized that peace cannot be biased or foster the interests of one state at the expense of the other. We do not accept strikes against civilian targets, old men, and children, Musa said, describing developments in south Lebanon as (?hard) and serious. He pointed out that the current developments make an objective analysis of the matter inevitable.

He affirmed that what we need is a peace based on the Israeli withdrawal from south Lebanon and on giving the Lebanese people back their freedom and independence. Anything contrary to that conflicts with our objectives and our pan-Arab interests, he said.

The Egyptian foreign minister said that the Arab League Council's meeting today demonstrates our faith in the League's role, pointing out that this is a message to whom it may concern and to whoever thinks that we belittle the League or are willing to let it dissolve itself.

He affirmed that the Arab League is a framework and an organization that brings us together today to discuss a bad situation affecting the entire region and not Lebanon alone.

Musa described as important the speech Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz gave, in which he specified the dates of the Israeli aggressions against Lebanon. He added that the speech was a message to the world mass media that has failed to refer to this. He added that the speech made a complete, realistic, and objective analysis of developments that still are happening in Lebanon.

Inter-Arab: Saudi Foreign Minister Expresses Solidarity With Lebanon

LD1704222696 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2110 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Cairo, 17 Apr: His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign affairs minister, has reaffirmed the siding of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with Lebanon, and its support for the Lebanese people in confronting the continued Israeli aggression on their territory.

His highness stressed in his speech today before the extraordinary meeting of the Arab League's ministerial council the urgency of adopting a quick decision to confront the Israeli aggression.

He said: "If there is a message which not only expresses the anger, but also the measures which we shall adopt, then speed is important at the same time ... [ellipses as received] for in as much as our meeting is short and arrives at a speedy and strong draft decision, it will be an important expression of the international community." [passage omitted]

He said: "There are international contacts currently under way over this issue". His highness stressed that people were being killed and the country destroyed. [passage omitted]

Inter-Arab: Syria's al-Shar' Addresses League Meeting

JN1704194396 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 17 Apr 96

[Announcer-read report over video; italicized passages recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] The emergency meeting of the Arab League Council opened at the Arab League headquarters in Cairo at the foreign ministers' level to discuss the Israeli aggression on Lebanese territories. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who is participating in the meeting, delivered a speech in which he stressed Syria's support for fraternal Lebanon. He said that if Israel wants to destroy the resistance, as it alleges, it has completely failed because nobody from the resistance has been killed. He added:

I am sure that nobody who loves peace that is based on international legitimacy and UN resolutions can say at this moment that the current large-scale aggression on the land of a fraternal Arab country is for the sake of peace, security, or stability. This is a big lie Israel is disseminating through some international media organs. But we, Mr. Chairman, should not be victims of this media campaign in the international arena.

Regarding Israel's attempts to deceive people over the concept of terrorism and the legitimate national resistance, the foreign minister said: We condemn all forms of terrorism as criminal actions. But fighting occupation is a national action in accordance with the international norms and charters. The killing of innocent people and destroying houses in Lebanon is true terrorism.

All forms of terrorism are condemned. But he who defends his occupied land cannot be termed a terrorist. Mr. Chairman, Israel wants to place us all, in the same trench as itself, against our nation and peoples.

Al-Shar' concluded his speech by asking the Arab League Council to adopt a resolution illustrating what is happening and holding Israel responsible for its large-scale aggression. The foreign minister also expressed his optimism that the nation will overcome this grave situation.

On the sidelines of the emergency meeting of the Arab League Council, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' met in Cairo this afternoon with Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. Talks centered on Israel's aggression on Lebanon, as well as the situation in the region.

Al-Shar' also met with Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. They discussed the emergency meeting the Arab League Council is holding to discuss the Israeli aggression on Lebanon.

Al-Shar' then met with Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz. Talks tackled the draft resolution being considered by the Arab League Council.

Al-Shar' finally met with French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette at the Semiramis Hotel. Talks dealt with the French minister's tour, as well as the latest developments in the region.

Inter-Arab: Syria's al-Shar' Criticizes Israel's 'Barbaric Aggression'

NC1704172296 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1510 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA)—Addressing the emergency meeting of the Arab League Council today, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' accused Israel of violating international resolutions. He said we should not become victims of a worldwide propaganda campaign launched by Israel under false and feeble pretexts to justify its barbaric aggression on a fraternal Arab country.

Al-Shar' accused Israel of starting the aggression in southern Lebanon. He noted that there is an agreement reached between the two sides in 1993 under the auspices of the United States preventing the shelling of civilian areas. But Israel has violated this agreement with the aim of provoking the Lebanese resistance. Al-Shar said that despite its constant attacks, Israel has so far failed to kill any member of the resistance. He explained that the events in Lebanon should be a lesson to all of us.

Al-Shar' wondered what the advantage of peace with Israel is if it continues to pursue a policy of collective punishment against the Palestinian people. This policy has resulted in the starvation, unemployment, and dispersal of the Palestinians. He said the situation has now become more difficult. It is a new situation, one that has not existed before. He noted that everybody is now in a predicament and we must not contribute to deepening this predicament.

Al-Shar' said terrorism in all its forms and shapes is denounced. However, it is illogical to regard someone who defends his land as a terrorist. He explained that Israel has placed all of us in the same trench against our people. He noted that we are all prepared to fight terrorism with a sincere brotherly spirit.

Al-Shar' said any action against occupation is patriotic. He expressed his disappointment that some Arab officials and states agree with Israel's interpretation of terrorism. He indicated that in that case the whole region will come under the feet of occupation.

Al-Shar' expressed the hope that the meeting will issue a resolution holding Israel responsible for what is happening and affirming the need to stop the aggression in southern Lebanon and for Lebanon to have control over all its national soil.

Inter-Arab: Arab League Reaches Accord on Lebanon

*LD1704212296 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
2020 GMT 17 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Shaykh Ahmad al-Sabah, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stated that agreement has been reached at the emergency meeting of the Arab League which examined the Israeli aggression against Lebanon on issuing a communique denouncing the aggression and expressing total Arab support for Lebanon.

Shaykh al-Sabah said in statement upon his arrival here this evening after a one-day visit in Cairo where he led the delegation of Kuwait at the proceedings of the said meeting that the communique would ask Israel to implement UNSC Resolution 425 which calls for a complete Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon. He added that the communique would ask Israel to pay compensation for the damages caused to the infrastructure and Lebanese citizens. [passage omitted]

Inter-Arab: Arab League Issues Statement on Lebanon

*NC1704211196 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2020 GMT 17 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA)—The Arab countries called for an immediate halt to the continuing Israeli aggression against Lebanon, an end to the process of destruction and the forcible collective displacement being carried out by Israel on a large scale in Lebanon, and the return of the persons displaced by this aggression to their villages and towns.

In a statement issued here tonight at the conclusion of the emergency meeting of the Arab League Council at its General Secretariat headquarters, the Council underlined the Lebanese people's right to resist the Israeli occupation of their territory in accordance with the UN Charter, especially the right of legitimate defense against the occupier.

The Council also underlined Lebanon's right to demand compensation from Israel for the victims and damage resulting from the Israeli occupation and aggression.

Following is the text of the statement issued by the Arab League Council tonight:

The Arab League Council,

1. At its emergency meeting on 17 April 1996 to discuss the Israeli aggression against Lebanon [words indistinct] heard the report presented by the Lebanese foreign minister on the continuing Israeli aggression against Lebanon, its extent, and motives;

3. In light of the grave consequences of the escalation of the continuing Israeli aggression against Lebanon's sovereignty, security, and territorial integrity, against the entire Arab region, and against the peace process resulting from the Madrid conference for peace in the Middle East;

4. In view of the serious results of this aggression in causing the deaths of dozens of civilians, injuring

hundreds of people, and forcibly displacing more than half a million citizens from the Lebanese towns and villages in south Lebanon and the western al-Biqa';

5. After taking note of the heavy damage caused to major economic facilities and the historic archaeological sites targeted by the Israeli air, sea, and land bombardment of several areas of Lebanon;

6. And while regarding this aggression as a grave threat to the region's security and to international peace and security and a blatant violation of the principles of international and human law;

7. And while recalling its former resolutions which asserted Lebanon's right to seek compensation for the human victims and for the destruction and damage caused to civilians and the infrastructure as a result of the repeated Israeli aggressions;

8. And while also recalling all the resolutions adopted by the Arab summits and the Arab League Council on Arab solidarity with the Lebanese Government to end the Israeli occupation of Lebanese territory and back the Lebanese Government in all the measures it takes to end this occupation in implementation of Security Council Resolution 425 of 1978;

9. Proceeding from the principles of international legality represented by the UN Charter and the World Declaration on Human Rights;

10. and proceeding from the Arab League Charter and the joint Arab action plans;

the Arab League Council has decided:

1. A) To strongly denounce the ferocious and continuing Israeli aggression on Lebanese territory, which has targeted Lebanon's sovereignty, the safety of its people and territory, and the inviolability of its airspace and territorial waters, and which has led to the destruction of its infrastructure, vital installations, and historical antiquities in several areas.

B) To denounce Israel for starting this aggression against Lebanon in violation of the UN Charter and the principles of international law and for imperiling the peace process based on Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425.

2. To demand an immediate halt to the continuing Israeli aggression against Lebanon, an end to the process of destruction and the massive forcible dislocation of inhabitants in Lebanon, and to demand the return of the displaced to their villages and towns.

3. To affirm Arab solidarity with Lebanon in confronting the Israeli aggression and to ask the Security Council to denounce this aggression and to force Israel to implement Resolution 425 of 1978, which calls for the Israeli forces to withdraw from all Lebanese territory.

4. To affirm the Lebanese people's right to resist the Israeli occupation of Lebanese territory on the basis of the UN Charter, particularly the right of legitimate defense against the occupier, and to support their right to demand compensation from Israel for the victims and the losses incurred as a result of the Israeli occupation and attacks.

5. A) To offer financial and material aid to the Lebanese Government to secure the return of the displaced to their towns and villages and to call on Arab, international, and humanitarian organizations to quickly extend all kinds of assistance to Lebanon to counter the tragic situation and the destruction caused by the Israeli aggression.

B) To ask the Security Council to force Israel to pay the necessary compensation to repair the utilities and infrastructure destroyed by the Israeli attacks.

C) To extend immediate aid to the Lebanese Government to rebuild the vital utilities and infrastructure destroyed by the Israeli attacks.

6. To ask the Arab League secretary general to follow up on the situation and to coordinate with the Arab countries on the measures that must be taken, such as holding immediate contacts with the cosponsors of the peace conference, the UN secretary general, the Security Council members, and the EU presidency to bring about an immediate halt to the Israeli attacks and to work to implement Resolution 425 and put a final end to the Israeli occupation.

7. To consider the emergency session remains open and to ask the secretary general to submit a report to the Council on a date he deems suitable.

Inter-Arab: Ministers Hold Sideline Meeting To Discuss Lebanon Solution

*NC1704195396 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1840 GMT 17 Apr 96*

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA)—The foreign ministers of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Lebanon — 'Amr Musa, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Faruq al-Shar', and Faris Buwayz — met tonight at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry.

Sources close to the meeting said that the ministers reviewed a number of issues related to coordination on the Lebanese problem in light of the resolution passed by the Arab League Council at the conclusion of its meetings earlier today in Cairo.

This quadripartite meeting was followed by a five-party one that included the four Arab foreign ministers and French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette, who arrived in Cairo earlier today. The meeting is discussing France's efforts to stop the israeli aggression against Lebanon through the French initiative to resolve the crisis, which consists of eight points.

Speaking on his arrival at the Foreign Ministry to attend *these meetings, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'* said that today's Arab League Council meetings were good, that good discussions were held, and that the resolution issued at the conclusion of the meetings stresses that all the Arab countries back and support Lebanon's stand.

He added that the Council denounced the Israeli aggression against Lebanon, demanded an immediate halt to the Israeli aggression, and held Israel responsible for the material and human losses resulting from this aggression.

Al-Shar' went on to say that the Arab ministers' deliberations showed that there is very vehement Arab anger at Israel and its aggression, because the current Israeli bombardment of Lebanon confirms that Israel is working against peace, that its policies have nothing to do with peace, and that most Arab countries feel pained and embarrassed by the Israeli aggression against Lebanon.

On whether there is an Arab mechanism for confronting Israeli aggression, al-Shar' said that there is Syrian and Lebanese steadfastness, that the Lebanese people are sticking together, and that Syria backs Lebanon.

He added that Israel has completely failed to achieve its objectives in the aggression; it has achieved nothing, and is losing and not winning by what it has done. He noted that the Lebanese resistance has not lost a single member; this shows the failure of the Israeli aggression.

Al-Shar' said that his country is holding constant discussions on the crisis with the French side. He added that he and the French foreign minister exchanged views during their meeting tonight and also discussed ways of halting Israeli aggression.

Regarding the French initiative, he said that the French foreign minister has positive ideas. He added: We also added ideas that will help calm the situation. But there is no positive reaction from Israel so far.

Inter-Arab: Buwayz, de Charette Discuss Results of Talks

NC1704193096 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] French Foreign Minister [Herve] de Charette met in Cairo this evening with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwyz. He briefed them on the latest developments regarding French efforts to bring about a cease-fire in Lebanon and the results of his talks with Israeli officials.

Lebanese Foreign Minister Buwayz stated that he had briefed de Charette on the results of the meeting of the Arab League Council today regarding Lebanon. He stressed that the Arab League endorsed the draft resolution proposed by Lebanon. This draft resolution condemns the Israeli aggression, holds Israel responsible for the damage caused by its aggression, and calls on the Security Council to immediately put an end to this aggression and to implement Security Council Resolution 425. He added that Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid has been tasked instead of the proposed ministerial Arab committee with making contacts with the countries concerned in order to implement the Security Council resolution. He noted that the Arab League did not discuss giving military support to Lebanon, but stressed the need to offer urgent financial support and humanitarian aid.

Inter-Arab: Buwayz Expects U.S. To Use Veto at UNSC Talks on Lebanon

NC1804054996 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2127 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA)—Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has stated that the emergency meeting of the Arab foreign ministers council approved the Lebanese document, which is based on two principles. These principles are: Demanding a condemnation of the Israeli aggression and holding Israel responsible for the damage that has resulted from its attacks. In addition, the Arab League Council will ask the Security Council to put an immediate end to the aggression and implement Security Council Resolution 425, which stipulates that Israel should withdraw from southern Lebanon.

Buwayz said in press statements after the Arab foreign ministers' closed session concluded today that the points that were discussed are the basis for a draft resolution, which has been put before the draft committee and will be adopted by the Arab League Council. He pointed out that the Council entrusted the Arab League secretary general to hold the necessary contacts to implement the resolutions.

The Lebanese minister expressed his belief that the statement contains practical steps among which are contacting the influential countries and members of the Security Council and supporting the Lebanese Government in all political and economic matters.

He also expressed his belief that the United States will use the veto when discussing Lebanon at the [United Nations] Security Council [UNSC]. He affirmed that Lebanon believes it is necessary to present the case to the Security Council to test its credibility.

Faris Buwayz said that by presenting the case to the Security Council one of two things will become clear: Either that the Security Council is still master of its own affairs and capable of making clear resolutions, or that the imbalance in the international balance of power will become clear.

Concluding his statements, Buwayz denied that the Council proposed offering Lebanon military support now.

Inter-Arab: Al-Shar'—Parties Should Return to July 1993 Agreement

NC1804063896 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2200 GMT 19 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 Apr (MENA)—The foreign ministers of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and Lebanon held another quadripartite meeting, after their meeting with French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette this evening.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa stated at the end of the meeting that no progress has taken place yet. He said that there is a French initiative over which there is understanding. There is also a U.S. initiative, sixty or seventy percent of whose articles are not accepted by Lebanon. The Egyptian foreign minister added that de Charette will visit Israel once again and then return to Egypt if the need arises.

For his part, Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' demanded that the current crisis should end during the coming few days and that proposals should be balanced and should take Lebanon's political interests into consideration, as well as stability and security in the region.

He noted that what is happening now shatters security and stability in the region. Israel will not win anything from its aggressions on Lebanon.

Al-Shar' said that Lebanon and Israel should return to the July 1993 agreement, and that a mechanism should be set to help implement it.

For his part, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal stated after the meeting that the Arab League resolution issued today expresses Arab will toward the Lebanese tragedy and the Israeli shelling.

He expressed his hopes that French efforts will succeed in resolving the crisis. He said that he met with the French minister upon the latter's request, and that it was a constructive meeting.

Inter-Arab: Saudi Minister 'Happy' With Results of League Meeting

LD1704222896 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
2121 GMT 17 May 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 17 April — His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign affairs minister, expressed his happiness at the results reached at the extraordinary session of the Arab League's ministerial council.

His Highness said in a statement he gave this evening at the end of the council's meeting: "We have concluded the Arab League's meeting, arrived at a collective decision and we are happy at the results of this meeting."

In reply to a question about the American and French initiatives on the Israeli aggression, and which one of them was closer to the Arab point of view, his highness said: "We have so far not been briefed about them."

Palestinian Affairs

Palestinian Affairs: Islamic Jihad Said To Order More Suicide Attacks in Israel

NC1704135596 Paris AFP in English
1334 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Jerusalem, April 17 (AFP) — The militant Palestinan movement Islamic Jihad said Wednesday [17 April] that it has ordered its suicide commandos into action against Israel in retaliation for the Jewish state's military offensive in Lebanon.

"Peres prepare the body bags, more than the number of victims in Lebanon," said a statement from the armed branch of the movement, addressing Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

"The military wing of Islamic Jihad announces that it has put all its units on full alert," said the statement signed by the Islamic Struggle Brigade.

"We have issued secret instructions to our suicide groups to prepare everything for attacks on the Zionist public, without mercy and without distinction between military or civilian targets," it said.

The movement, which claimed responsibility for a March 4 suicide bombing on a Tel Aviv street corner that killed 13 people, said it is ordering new attacks in reprisal for the week-old Israeli military campaign against Hizballah, another pro-Iranian fundamentalist movement.

Islamic Jihad and the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), which carried out three other recent suicide bombings in Israel, already issued a joint statement in Damascus announcing new anti-Israeli attacks in response to the Lebanon offensive.

"We will treat (Israelis) as they treated our family in Lebanon," Wednesday's statement faxed to news organizations said.

"We will teach the murderer Peres and his master a lesson he will not forget ... Arab blood and Moslem blood is very expensive.

"The world should listen to the cries of our suicide heroes: Yes for Islam, Yes for Hizballah, Yes for Lebanon'," it said.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Sends Message of Support to Lebanon's al-Hariri

JN1704142796 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat stressed that the Palestinian people and their leadership, represented by the National Authority and the PLO, stand by the Lebanese people and their government in the face of Israeli attacks.

In a message to Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, the president said the National Authority and the PLO have been following all Arab and international efforts and initiatives that seek an urgent halt to these attacks.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Urayqat Briefs U.S., French Envoys on Israeli 'Siege'

JN1704141196 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Dr. Sa'ib 'Urayqat, member of the Legislative Council, briefed the U.S. and French consuls general on the dangers of the continuation of the Israeli siege on Palestine. 'Urayqat received the two consuls general in his office at the Ministry of Local Government in Jericho. The attendees discussed the results and recommendations of the Sharm al-Shaykh follow-up committee's conference and preparations for the conference of foreign ministers of countries that took part in Sharm al-Shaykh summit, scheduled to be held in Luxembourg on 22 April.

Palestinian Affairs: 'Arafat Forms Committee To Draft Political Report for PNC

JN1804065296 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat decided to form a committee to draft the political report which will be presented to the Palestine National Council's [PNC] 22 April session.

The committee is composed of al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the Palestinian presidency; Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, PLO Executive Committee member and minister of culture and information; and Bashir al-Barghuthi, secretary general of the Palestinian People's Party.

President 'Arafat met with a Palestinian People's Party delegation within the past two days and discussed with the delegation Israeli obstacles and problems preventing the implementation of agreements, as well as the external interference in the Palestinian arena aimed at forging non-Palestinian options.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Arab-Israeli Talks: Israeli Campaign on Lebanon Explained

MS1804113096 London INDEPENDENT in English 18 Apr 96 p 17

[Report by Patrick Cockburn: "A War the Israelis Can All Support"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] It is Israel's most popular war since 1967. When Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982, thousands of people signed a petition against the attack within 24 hours of it starting. This time there is very little dissent. The vast majority of Israelis believe that Operation Grapes of Wrath, now at the end of its first week, is the correct way to deal with Hizballah, the Lebanese guerrilla movement.

The main difference between the war in 1982 and today is that the present operation is seen by Israelis as defensive. Hizballah was firing Katyusha rockets across the border. Night after night Israeli television showed pictures of the small crater made by the rockets and Israeli families in northern Galilee living in deep shelters.

If anything the Israelis believe that Shim'on Peres, the prime minister, waited too long. A few days before the bombardment of southern Lebanon started he was advised by his security men not to visit Kiryat Shmona, the town which is the favourite target of Hizballah. By contrast, Bibi Netanyahu, the leader of the right-wing Likud party and his rival for the prime minister's office in the election on 29 May, was cheered as he walked through its streets.

It is also a war on the cheap. There has been no ground offensive by Israeli forces. Peres promised that there will be none, saying that in 1985 he was the man who got Israel out of Lebanon. This may turn out to be the weak point of the entire operation, but at the moment Israeli parents are not worried that their children are going to be sent to fight in Lebanon. There has not been a single Israeli military casualty in the last week, compared with the 650 soldiers who died in 1982-4.

Peres is also in a strong position because he is facing a general election in six weeks' time. If there was any dissent about Grapes of Wrath, it would come from the left, but this element is either contained in his governing coalition or is frightened of a Likud election victory. The Israeli left is, in any case, never very radical. One political commentator asks: "With a left like this, who needs a right?"

But after suicide bombs killed 63 people in February and March, Peres appeared to be sliding towards defeat. Even members of the Labour party who are not overjoyed by what is happening in Lebanon can see its political advantages. Likud has lost its best card, which was to attack Peres as soft on security.

There is a further connection between the bombardment of the south of Lebanon and the suicide bombing campaign. "Israelis were more profoundly shocked by the four suicide bombs than they ever were before," says one prominent peace activist. Hizballah is a very different organisation from Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad. Its support is from the Lebanese Shiah community, while the Palestinian organisations that exploded the suicide bombs are Sunni Muslim. But for Israelis, they are all Islamic fundamentalists using the same lethal tactics. Attacking Lebanon helps to exorcise the hatred and fear that followed the suicide bombing attacks.

In some ways it has all been too easy. Just as in the Gulf war, there are videos of "smart" weapons demolishing targeted buildings (tagged as Hizballah strongholds). But these clips give a false impression of the vulnerability of the guerrillas that Israel is facing in southern Lebanon. They do not depend on drill halls, arsenals or military emplacements. One reason why there was a build-up of tension in the Israeli-occupied zone over the past few months is that Hizballah showed that it was becoming very effective. Its ambushes were sophisticated and the South Lebanon Army (SLA), the Israeli-controlled local militia, looked as if it was starting to disintegrate.

Despite the onslaught from the air, and from Israeli heavy artillery, there is no sign that Hizballah has been hard hit. In recent days the number of Katyusha rockets being fired across the border has actually gone up. They do not do much damage and are inaccurate. Usually they dig a small pot-hole in the ground and break some windows. But Peres has promised to stop them and so far he has not done so. If there have only been six or seven Israeli civilian casualties in the past week, this is partly because local people are in deep shelters. They do not want to stay there.

Standing on the roof of the Israeli military headquarters at Marjayoun inside south Lebanon yesterday, Israeli military commanders were confident that by the end of the operation there would be fewer Katyushas. "They will not be in the same quantity," said Colonel Amal Asad. But this is not quite what Peres promised.

Colonel Asad also said that there had been no clashes between Hizballah and Israeli or SLA troops for a week. This could mean that the guerrillas have been hurt by the bombardment — though this is contradicted by the fact that they continue to fire rockets. Another explanation, more ominous for Israel, is that they are waiting to counter-attack.

If they do so, this will be damaging for Peres. He needs a diplomatic solution in the next few days. He hopes this will come through the United States putting pressure on Syria, which will in turn curb Hizballah. This is what President Hafiz al-Asad of Syria did in 1993, and he may do so again. The problem is that if he does not do it, then it will be difficult for Peres to end Grapes of Wrath successfully. He will come under pressure to use ground troops. But at this point he will be doing what he said he would never do: entangle Israel in a ground war in Lebanon.

For Peres and Israel, Grapes of Wrath is more of a gamble than it looks. For the Israeli public, it is a conflict that appears justified and largely without risks. Few live anywhere near the northern border and most Israelis get their news of the damage done by the Katyusha rockets to life in northern Galilee from television and the press. Driving 400,000 people from their homes strikes Lebanese as an attempt to destroy their country — or at least to undermine their attempts to rebuild it after 15 years of war. While for Israelis, the order for people to leave their villages and towns seems like a benign effort to minimise casualties.

The danger for Israel is that the use of excessive force in Lebanon will ultimately be counter-productive. The aim may be to minimise Israeli casualties by using air power and artillery alone. But, as the US learnt in Vietnam and the Soviet Union in Afghanistan, this is seldom effective. It disrupts too many lives; it creates new enemies. Israeli officers insist that they have been employing weapons with pin-point accuracy. But in the past, such claims have turned out to be exaggerated.

Peres is trying to increase the pressure on Hizballah, the Lebanese government and Syria by insisting that Grapes of Wrath is open-ended, but if Israel is to achieve its goals in Lebanon then it needs a ceasefire and a diplomatic solution soon.

Algeria

Algeria: Zeroual—Presidency Will Not Open Dialogue With FIS

MM1704150596 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Apr 96 p 6

[Unattributed report: "Zeroual Informs Parties of His Refusal To Hold Dialogue With Salvation Front"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Algeria, London, AL-HAYAH — Partisan sources have told AL-HAYAH that Algerian President Liamine Zeroual stressed to leaders of the "national covenant" parties, whom he received yesterday, that the presidency is not in the process of opening any dialogue with "leaders of the disbanded party" [the Islamic Salvation Front], that the state is in control of the security situation, and that it is in the process of holding a national conference, the outlines of whose topics will crystallize in the upcoming dialogue, which will be held in the light of the memorandum which the presidency has begun to prepare and which will be completed after current consultations, scheduled to be concluded next week. [passage omitted]

Algeria: Sonatrach Oil Company To Invest $18 Billion by Year 2000

LD1704173096 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in French 0630 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Sonatrach is doing well, very well, even according to experts. Sonatrach head Nazim Zouieche released a figure yesterday at a conference at the Foreign Ministry: By the year 2000 the company will invest nearly $18 billion dollars in its assets, that is, nearly $4.5 billion per year — a huge sum. [passage omitted]

Algeria: Security Service Eliminates Criminal Group

LD1704202396 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] According to a communique from the national security services, a group of criminals were eliminated this morning in the capita of the Bab el Oued district. The security forces seized weapons and ammunition belonging to the six criminals.

Egypt

Egypt: 17 Tourists Killed, 20 Wounded in Attack on Cairo Hotel

NC1804070896 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0701 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Apr (MENA)—Four unidentified gunmen early today opened gunfire at the Europa Hotel on al-Haram street in Cairo. Initial reports said that 17 people have been killed and 20 others wounded. Most of the dead are from a Greek tourist group which was heading to Alexandria.

An eyewitness said he saw four armed men getting out of a VW minibus of the al-Jizah Service. Three of the men went to the entrance of the Europa Hotel and opened fire on the guests.

He added that he saw them carrying machine-guns, in addition to pistols. They were all wearing black jackets and they fled the place right after committing their crime.

Bullet holes could be seen at the entranceway of the Europa Hotel and in the ceiling of the hotel entrance. The window of one of the tourist cars, which the hotel guests used as a shield, was broken, according to eyewitness accounts.

The al-Jizah security command, investigation authorities, and criminal laboratory workers went to the scene of the crime. The wounded were taken to hospitals near the al-Haram area.

Egypt: Cabinet Condemns Israeli 'Aggression' Against Lebanon

NC1704133796 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] At its meeting today under Prime Minister Dr. Kamal al-Janzuri, the cabinet discussed foreign policy, particularly the situation in the Middle East. Stating this, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif added that the cabinet condemned the Israeli aggression against the Lebanese people and the deterioration of the situation in Lebanon. The cabinet emphasized that what Israel is doing in Lebanon does not serve the peace process. The cabinet noted the importance of Egypt's role in motivating the world, the international community, and the countries calling for peace to stand by Lebanon and to have the Security Council pass a resolution on this issue.

Prime Minister al-Janzuri stressed that all parties must stop acts of violence. He noted President Husni Mubarak's efforts to end the current situation in

Lebanon. He also noted President Mubarak's talks with Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri and President Mubarak's instructions to send urgent relief aid and medicine to the Lebanese people.

The information minister said the cabinet then discussed the domestic situation and the security agencies' role in striking the extremists and foiling attempts by the illegal organizations and the Repudiation and Renunciation [altakfir wa alhijrah] Group to infringe Egypt's security. [passage omitted]

Egypt: Mubarak Receives Saudi Foreign Minister al-Faysal

NC1804100196 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0935 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 18 Apr (MENA)—This morning President Husni Mubarak received Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. The meeting was attended by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa.

Al-Faysal yesterday attended the Arab foreign ministers' emergency meeting, held at Arab League headquarters in Cairo, to discuss the Israeli aggression against Lebanon.

Egypt: Writer Says Perry Erred in Threatening Libya From Cairo

NC1804083996 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
8 Apr 96 p 4

['Abd-al-'Azim Hammad column: "Not a Colonial Secretary"]

[FBIS Translated Text] U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry erred twice in Cairo. The first time he deliberately chose Cairo as a venue to release threats to use military force to stop a project Libya is reportedly building to produce chemical weapons. The second time he mentioned half the truth regarding his talks with President Husni Mubarak on this subject.

Mr. Perry only mentioned that he discussed Libyan chemical weapons production with President Mubarak and submitted U.S. data and evidence to him. Perry did not mention President Mubarak's comments and views on this subject. From his suspicious silence on Egypt's stance, it is obvious that the U.S. defense secretary intended to imply that Egypt shares his views. It seems he did not expect anyone in Cairo to expose his "trick."

Naturally, this is not the truth. Perry's information and evidence are not enough to accuse Libya of producing chemical weapons. Even if Perry's information contains a shadow of the truth, there are a thousand ways to deal with the situation without the need to threaten to use force. Egypt itself has adopted a strategy that is welcomed internationally and regionally, except by Israel. This strategy calls for declaring the Middle East a zone free of the weapons of mass destruction.

Our talks on peaceful ways to settle the Libyan chemical weapons issue should not be construed to mean that we acknowledge that the United States has the right to decide which country is allowed to possess nuclear and chemical weapons and which country is not. We only accept the general U.S. strategy of preventing nuclear and chemical weapons proliferation provided that this rule applies to all states without exceptions that would benefit Israel and harm the Arabs. This strategy should remain based on diplomatic means through international organizations.

The U.S. defense secretary should not forget that Egypt has refrained from signing the agreement on producing and stockpiling chemical weapons, not because it wants to produce these weapons, but because it wants to keep this option open until its efforts to declare the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction are crowned with success.

Choosing Cairo as a setting for releasing U.S. threats against Libya is a departure from diplomatic niceties. It is also an error committed by Mr. Perry. The Egyptian reaction to this error has awakened Perry to the fact that he is a defense secretary of a friendly country and not a colonial secretary or a high commissioner of a former empire.

Libya

Libya: Al-Qadhdhafi Claims al-Tarhunah Tunnel for Irrigation

LD1704151296 Tripoli JANA in English
1428 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, al Tayr [April] 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The leader of the revolution confirmed that the allegations of the American Government in al-Tarhunah concern the construction within the pattern of building a tunnel in a mountain for the passage of one pipe in the great man-made river...which is a vital irrigation project known to everyone.

He indicated that if any construction work like this is suspicious work in America's eyes then that means we are to take permission from America to do anything in our mountains and our lands: to drill tunnels and to extend pipes or rivers or to construct any facility over our land to avoid its allegations.

In an interview with CNN the American satellite network which was transmitted live through satellite to all parts of the world, the leader of the revolution said we have to defend our country from American threats and America has no right to issue such threats.

Al-Qadhdhafi asked: Who gave America the right to act unilaterally? We have the United Nations and the Security Council even though it is controlled by America and its allies. He added that America is not an international policeman for the world and we regard it as a country like any other country in the world and we are all equal according to the United Nations charter.

In response to a question by the American network whether there was a chemical weapons plant in Libya the leader of the revolution said: 'We do not think about such a thing even though we are under the threats of nuclear chemical and biological weapons from the Israelis and from America. The American fleet, for example, has atomic weapons and is present at a close distance from us and constitutes a constant source of threat at any one time.'

The leader added that we have the right to do that and all the Arabs have the right because they are under the threat of Israeli atomic weapons. They have the right to possess these weapons but we don't have the capability for that. Even though we have that right we are not thinking about it. The leader of the revolution said if America was against the weapons of mass destruction then why dosen't it attack the Israelis who possess atomic weapons. And why does she speak about Libya and says nothing about the Israelis even though Libya has nothing of the kind whereas the whole world knows that the Israelis possess atomic, chemcial and biological weapons.

Libya: South Africa's Nzo—No Chemical Weapons Plant in Libya

MB1704174496 Johannesburg SAPA in English 1632 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] PRETORIA April 17 SAPA — Contrary to speculation by certain Western nations, Libya is not building a chemical weapons plant, Foreign Affairs Minister Alfred Nzo said on Wednesday [17 April].

Nzo, who is on a working visit to Libya, said in a joint statement released in Pretoria that he was given this assurance when he discussed the publicity given to the matter with Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and secretary of the general people's committee Abdel Mageed Al Goad [name as received].

"Minister Nzo utilised the opportunity to raise the publicity being given to the alleged development of a chemical weapons plant in the Great Jamahiriya (Libya)," the statement said.

"The secretary responded by conveying their views on the matter and gave the assurance that no such plant was under construction."

Nzo conveyed his appreciation for the fact that Al-Qadhdhafi had "positively responded" to President Nelson Mandela's invitation to visit South Africa. He also announced steps were being taken to accredit a non-residential South African ambassador to Libya. The two countries have already established diplomatic relations.

Morocco

Morocco: Foreign Ministry Agrees To Mediate Between Russia, Chechnya

LD1704233296 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation announced its readiness to be a mediator in the conflict between the Russian Federation and Chechnya following the Russian president's statement in which he mentioned the possibility of King Hassan II's mediation in the conflict.

Morocco: Paper Assails U.S. Policy on Libya

LD1704152496 Casablanca AL-ITTIHAD AL-ISHTIRAKI in Arabic 9 Apr p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Suddenly and without warning the United States openly made threats to attack Libya. The person to voice these threats was the American secretary for defense, from Cairo the capital of Egypt, Libya's neighbor. Indeed, William Perry said that his country had received confirmed reports, with evidence and proof, that Libya was developing bacteriological and chemical weapons in a plant in al-Tarhunah (65 km southeast of Tripoli), and he did not rule out an attack against this plant.

The timing of this statement raises many questions: it comes only a few days after revelations by Israeli television that there might be radiations from buried Israeli nuclear waste, and after the concern and fear voiced by the Arab countries bordering Israel. This issue was also at the center of the talks held during the surprise visit to Damascus by President Mubarak of Egypt.

Therefore, the choosing of this dubious timing to speak about alleged Libyan "chemical weapons" is in fact nothing but an American attempt to divert attention from the nuclear danger coming from Israel, which refused to sign the mass destruction arms nonproliferation treaty.

Moreover, it was the United States that put pressure on several Arab countries, particularly Egypt, to sign this international treaty, and not to link the signing it to Israel doing the same and being committed to such a treaty.

Furthermore, the American threats disregard international law and the existence of international bodies such as the United Nations, to whom it should resort instead of playing the role of an international gendarme who intervenes everywhere under various excuses and outside any international legal framework. [passage omitted]

The United States has no right whatsoever to attack Libya militarily. There are several international channels and ad hoc bodies competent to decide what should be done, because we are not living in a society ruled by the law of the jungle, and double standard policies are unacceptable.

If America's aim was to cover up the danger of nuclear radiation from Israel, then it should realize that its signal has arrived. Also, it should be quite happy, because the Arabs concerned would not dare go far in disturbing Israel.

Sudan

Sudan: Khartoum Reportedly Expels 150-200 'Afghan-Arabs'

MM1704153596 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Apr 96 pp 1, 6

[Report by Nizar Daw-al-Na'im: "Khartoum Gives 'Afghan-Arabs' 3 Weeks To Leave Country"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London — Sources close to the Sudanese regime revealed yesterday that President 'Umar al-Bashir's government has given a number of "Afghan-Arabs" [Arabs who fought alongside Afghan mojahedin against Soviet forces] a short period of time to leave the country. This falls within the framework of the efforts being made to rectify relations with Egypt and to dissociate Sudan from charges of sheltering terrorists, especially as the UN Security Council is considering the idea of imposing sanctions on Sudan.

The sources told AL-HAYAH over the telephone in London that Khartoum "ordered the individuals accused of stirring up problems in their countries to leave the country as soon as possible." The sources declined to specify the number of individuals in question or the period of time given to them. However, AL-HAYAH's information indicates that the number of "Afghan-Arabs" is between 150 and 200, that they have been given three weeks, and that Khartoum has promised to provide any facilities that would help them to leave the country. [passage omitted]

Sudan: Military Spokesman Says Infighting Among Rebels

EA1804113596 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Reports say that sharp differences have emerged between individuals in the rebel forces, particularly in (Lobid) in Equatoria region.

In a statement to SUNA [SUDANESE NEWS AGENCY], a military source has disclosed that these differences have led to the dismissal of a great number of outlaws, and cattle rustling, as a result of the chaos that reignsin the region. The source added that as a result of the effects of these differences among the rebels, the situation was becoming worse every day in the areas where the rebels aresituated.

The spokesman said that sharp differences have emerged between Latuka tribesmen in Keyala and western (Lobid) in Equatoria. He said the tribes allied with rebel Garang are seeking to revolt and to make peace with the government to bring about security and stability.

Sudan: Vice President Invites Garang Faction To Join Peace Process

EA1704191296 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Southerners living in Khartoum state have expressed their support for the peace charter signed recently. This came during a huge mass gathering they organized in Haj Yusuf, yesterday.

Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, first vice president of the Republic, stressed the importance of sincerity in implementing the peace agreement. He said the signing of the charter between the government and the South Sudan Independence Movement [SSIM] and [a faction] of the Sudan People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] had opened a new chapter in the political history of Sudan. By signing the charter, Major General al-Zubayr added, the parties to the agreement are now endeavoring to reach a comprehensive peace agreement so as to reconstruct what had been destroyed by the war in the southern states. His Excellency referred to the effects of the war and urged people to invest in the country's abundant wealth and resources. The first vice president of the Republic called on [John] Garang's faction to join the peace process.

In his address before the masses, the leader of SSIM, Dr. Riak Machar, said the era of war was over and the time had come to bring about peace in the country. He said the charter constituted a peaceful resolution to the southern problem especially in the light of the current federal system in the country.

For his part, the leader of [a faction of] the SPLM, Mr. Kerubino Kuanyin Bol, stressed the importance of the charter saying that it was a great boost to the peace process. His Excellency [Kerubino] discussed the recent changes that had taken place in the country and in particular, the redistribution of wealth and power. He affirmed that his movement was committed to total unity and cooperation in activities that would bring about stability and development.

One of the leaders of the SPLM in Bahr al-Ghazal, Major Arok Thuon Arok, requested that the charter be implemented so as to realize a comprehensive and lasting peace in the country.

Bahrain

Bahrain: 'Arsonists' Set Fire to School Offices

NC1704135496 Paris AFP in English 0649 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Manama, April 17 (AFP) - Arsonists set fire to the offices of a Bahraini school, destroying student files but causing no casualties in the latest incident of anti-government unrest, officials said Wednesday [17 April].

"The attack by saboteurs took place Tuesday at dawn before students and teachers arrived," a government official said. The fire gutted the secretary's office while a personal computer and a photocopy machine were also stolen.

Many students stayed home from school on Wednesday while four security vans with armed police guarded the building in Sitra, a mainly Shiite Muslim area southeast of the capital Manama, witnesses said.

Dozens of schools have been ransacked or hit by arsonists in 16 months of unrest.

Police overnight Tuesday broke up several anti-government protests in the Shiite villages of Jid Hafs, Diraz and Bani Jamrah, west of Manama.

Unrest erupted in December 1994 following the arrest of a Shiite Muslim cleric who led calls for the restoration of the parliament which the Sunni-led authorities suspended in 1975.

At least 21 people, including four policemen have been killed in the violence. A Shiite Muslim convicted of killing a police officer was executed by firing squad in March.

Kuwait

Kuwait: Ambulances With Medical Aid Depart for Lebanon

LD1704155096 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A fleet of ambulances loaded with all the necessary medical emergency equipment left for Lebanon today. It is a contribution from the Kuwaiti people and their government to alleviate the plight of the Lebanese people.

An official communique said the sending of a fleet of ambulances — accompanied by supervisors to guarantee their arrival and reception by the authorities concerned — was the result of directives given by Kuwaiti Amir Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah, and the implementation of a decision made by the government. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia: King Affirms Support for Lebanon

LD1704223596 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Television Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud yesterday evening made a telephone call to His Excellency President Ilyas al-Hirawi, president of the fraternal republic of Lebanon. The conversation reviewed the latest developments of the situation in Lebanon following the continued Israeli air raids and the negative consequences the attacks had on the Lebanese infrastructure as well as the killing of Lebanese civilian people.

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques stressed to President Hirawi once again that the Saudi Arabian Government and people are standing by in solidarity with Lebanon and its concern over its territories and sovereignty and the preservation of Lebanon's security, safety and stability.

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz Al Sa'ud made another call yesterday evening to Rafiq al-Hariri, the Prime Minister of Lebanon, during which premier Hariri briefed the Servant of the Two Holy Places on the Israeli aggression against the Lebanese territories that is causing material destruction and ruin and killing and wounding Lebanese citizens.

The Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques expressed the deep regret of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the Israeli attacks on Lebanon and renewed the stand of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia by Lebanon to preserve its territorial integrity, safety, and sovereignty and to spare its people the dangers resulting from this blatant Israeli aggression.

Saudi Arabia: Saudis 'Will Not Tolerate Demonstrations During Pilgrimage'

LD1704125496 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Pilgrimage Affairs Minister Dr. Mahmud Bin-Muhammad Safar has indicated that pilgrimage is not an opportunity for propaganda, demagogy, or a competition in meaningless slogans. His highness stressed that almighty and merciful God, since he created humanity and imposed pilgrimage on Muslims, decreed this order. [passage omitted]

In a statement to the Saudi news agency, he added: We will not tolerate demonstrations during pilgrimage whatever the justifications, because we are entrusted with ensuring the safety of the guests of God. He also said that the government of Saudi Arabia is entrusted with ensuring the safety of the inviolable House of God and the observance of pilgrimage rites, which requires the preservation of the pilgrims' safety and the elimination of everything liable to cause them harm and division. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia: Customs Officers Foil Attempt To Smuggle Explosives

LD1704233196 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2230 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The officials at al-Hadithah customs border post have foiled an attempt to smuggle a quantity of explosives into the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

A responsible source at the Interior Ministry said in a statement to the Saudi news agency [SPA] that the explosives were hidden in various secret places of the Caprice car which had Saudi number plates and which was driven by a lone Saudi coming from outside the kingdom at 0315 [0015 GMT] on Friday, 10 Dhi al-Qi'dah of this year, corresponding to 29 March 1996 A.D.

The source added that the examination by explosives experts of the seized materials — estimated at 38kg and 116 meters of fuse saturated with explosive materials — revealed that some of it was of the (Fifrer) type, some was of the Semtex type, and a third quantity of a type known as (Tetril), which are very powerful explosives and have a huge impact when used in explosions.

The responsible source went on to say that the confiscated mate[illegible], the person, and the car were handed over to the specialized investigating security quarters where other people were later arrested. The investigations revealed that they were connected with these explosives.

He added that it was confirmed that equipping the car with these explosives took place in Lebanon with the preparation and knowledge of those arrested. He pointed out that their investigations were still under way.

The responsible source at the Interior Ministry concluded his statement by saying that there was a recorded TV film showing the smuggled car, the explosives inside it, and the explosives after being discovered.

Yemen

Yemen: Cabinet Condemns Israeli 'Aggression' Against Lebanon

JN1704192996 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Council of Ministers held a regular session today under Prime Minister 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abd-al-Ghani. [passage omitted]

The Council of Ministers reviewed Arab developments. It condemned the Israeli aggression against the fraternal Lebanese people and stressed Yemen's solidarity with, and support for, the fraternal Lebanese people in the face of the brutal aggression against citizens and vital facilities of the Lebanese people. The Council of Ministers reiterated President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's appeal to the Arab nation to shoulder its responsibilities and adopt a unified stance to end this aggression. The Council of Ministers also called on the international community to put pressure on Israel to stop its aggression and implement Security Council Resolution No. 425 that calls for its withdrawal from Lebanon's occupied territory.

Yemen: Iranian Foreign Ministry Official Arrives With Message for al-Iryani

JN1704141496 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Morteza (Samadi), under secretary of the Iranian Foreign Ministry, and the accompanying delegation arrived in Sanaa today on a visit to our country that will last several days. He is expected to hold talks with Foreign Ministry officials.

In a statement to the YEMENI NEWS AGENCY, SABA', the Iranian official said that he is carrying a message from his country's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati to Dr. 'Abd-al-Karim al-Iryani, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, noting that he will discuss with him means to develop and reinforce brotherly relations between the two fraternal countries. He added that he will discuss developments in the Middle East and Israel's recent attacks against the fraternal Republic of Lebanon.

He was received on arrival at Sanaa International Airport by Ghalib 'Ali Jamil, under secretary of the Foreign Ministry, and Morteza (Rahimi), Iran's ambassador in Sanaa.

Iraq: Al-Anbari—'Vicious Circle' at UN Oil-for-Food Talks

MM1704150896 London AL-QUDS AL-'ARABI in Arabic 17 Apr 96 p 3

[Report by Evelyn Leopold: "Al-Anbari Says: U.S. And British Pressures Obstruct Oil Agreement"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The Iraqi chief delegate to the oil-for-food talks with the United Nations has said that he is at a loss about the numerous changes in the draft agreement, but he intends to stay in New York until an agreement is reached.

Ambassador 'Abd-al-Amir al-Anbari accused the United Nations of backtracking on important parts of the agreement, which he said the two sides completed last week. He attributed these changes to the pressure exerted by some Security Council members. He is believed to mean the United States and Britain.

Al-Anbari said that he does not know whether the United Nations will continue to come up with new proposals.

He said over the telephone last night that "it is a vicious circle. There is no way to know whether these negotiations will not come to an end or whether we will one day be able to say: It is all over...let us sign."

Al-Anbari said that he had intended to leave New York on Sunday [14 April] but changed it to Tuesday. However, he has now canceled the plan to depart. He said: "I will remain here until we reach an agreement, no matter how long it will take."

The Iraqi negotiator said that he contacted Baghdad after the amendments to the text of the draft agreement were made on Saturday, but everyone is at a loss about the nature of the text.

He said that "very important parts of the text have been canceled or withdrawn in one way or another." He pointed out that the negotiation had been difficult due to the distance and the time difference between New York and Baghdad.

He said that "it has been difficult to obtain approval, but here they (the United Nations) come along and change their opinion." [passage omitted]

Iraq: Saddam Explains Oil Policy to OPEC Officials

JN1704173096 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1610 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 17 Apr (INA)—His Excellency President Saddam Husayn received Amar Mekhloufi, Algerian minister of energy and mines and president of OPEC Ministerial Council, and Rilwanu Lukman, OPEC secretary general.

The talks addressed the importance of Iraq as a founding member of OPEC and the importance of the return of Iraqi oil to the international market.

During the meeting, Mekhloufi and Lukman stressed that OPEC is working to accommodate the return of Iraqi oil to the oil market. They underlined OPEC's support for this.

His Excellency President Saddam Husayn spoke of the importance of OPEC. He also spoke on Iraqi policy, which supported OPEC and made vital contributions to its inception, to the enhancement of its role, and to the consecration of the principles of solidarity and understanding among OPEC members. He affirmed that Iraq's policy has always been grounded in the assumption that OPEC is a ship, and that the interests of all its passengers require them to coordinate, cooperate, and demonstrate solidarity among themselves so the ship may put to sea without any snags and head toward the achievement of OPEC's goals on the basis that no party should sustain any harm.

The meeting was attended by Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf and Oil Minister 'Amir Muhammad Rashid.

Iraq: OPEC Secretary General 'Welcomes' Iraq's Return to Market

JN1704201996 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1850 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 17 Apr (INA)—OPEC Secretary General Rilwanu Lukman said that OPEC welcomes Iraq's return to the world oil market.

In a news conference at the Oil Ministry's conference room today, Lukman said: We are looking forward to seeing Iraq back in its natural position. We hope that this return will take place smoothly and will benefit Iraq and all OPEC member states and nonmember states, for Iraq is an effective and basic element in the stability of prices. Attending the news conference were correspondents of world news agencies and television networks in Baghdad, as well as INA and local newspaper correspondents.

He said that the entire world, not only OPEC, is awaiting Iraq's speedy return to the oil market.

He said that the OPEC delegation's visit to a number of OPEC member states during the first tour was aimed to bolster the OPEC status, make it strong and coherent in the service of the member states' objectives, and maintain the OPEC role.

He said that OPEC is eagerly watching what is going on within the UN halls concerning the current dialogue with Iraq. He hoped that the dialogue would yield positive results because it would effectively lead to the stability of prices in the world oil market.

Amar Mekhloufi, Algerian minister of energy and mines and president of OPEC Ministerial Council, noted Iraq's continued support for OPEC. He said Iraq, which attends all OPEC ordinary and extraordinary conferences, has an effective and permanent presence in the debates on OPEC plans and action strategies.

Iraqi Oil Minister Lieutenant General Engineer 'Amir Muhammad Rashid said that Iraq always believes in cooperation with the OPEC member states in laying down a unified policy on the world oil market so as to maintain its stability, taking into consideration the interests of both consumers and producers. He stressed that Iraq has a full sense of responsibility toward devising the OPEC's policy.

Lt. Gen Rashid received earlier today Amar Mekhloufi, Algerian minister of energy and mines and president of OPEC Ministerial Council, and OPEC Secretary General Rilwanu Lukman.

Iraq: Paper Calls For 'Prompt Action' To End Israeli 'Aggression'

JN1804115596 Baghdad INA in English
1040 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, April 18, INA—An Iraqi paper has called for a prompt action to end the Israeli plot of annihilation against the Arabs, otherwise it will be too late to stem the Israeli tide of aggression because Israel will pay no heed of any warning and will go on in its aggression against any other Arab country.

"THE BAGHDAD OBSERVER" pointed out to the Israeli recent aggression against Lebanon under the pretext of retaliation for rocket attacks launched by the national Lebanese resistance forces on the occupied Palestinian lands saying that this act of barbarism by Israel, which claims it wants to start a new era of co-existence with the Arabs, should never go unpunished.

The paper added that this undoubtedly show that Israel intentionally wants to spread terror in the region instead of resorting to peaceful means to solve its problems with the Arabs.

While Israel vows to continue its massacre, the U.S. gives its blessing to Israeli acts of terrorism through releasing statements justifying the Israeli raids, which proves that Israel has been a tool in the U.S. hands to achieve the interests of successive American administrations in the region.

The paper stressed that the national Lebanese resistance forces have full legitimacy to free their land from the Israeli occupants since the UN has failed to do so.

The American action is not new to the Arabs as well, the paper added, everyone remembers how the U.S. amassed troops and brought all its allies in January 1991 to wage a ferocious war against Iraq under the pretext of protecting the Gulf region. Even when the war came to an end the U.S. Administration kept on releasing anti-Iraq statements to the effect that Iraq still posses a threat for the region. Libya, Sudan and other Arab countries have also been the target of U.S. arrogance.

The recent U.S. support of Israel's flagrant act against the Arabs is a clear evidence that U.S. is the major force behind the instability in the region and reveals the strong feeling of antagonism harboured by the U.S. and Israel towards the Arabs.

Now, that millions of people around the world have watched on TV screens the suffering of the villagers in southern Lebanon as a result of Israeli continuous raids, a prompt action should be taken to end the Israeli plot of annihilation against the Arabs.

Otherwise, it will be too late to stem the Israeli tide of aggression, because Israel will pay no heed of any warning and thus will go on in its aggression against any other Arab country, the paper concluded.

Iraq: Regime Reportedly Killed 500 at Abu Ghurayb in Mar

LD1704172596 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic
1630 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Vienna, 17 Apr — An Iraqi opposition group declared here today that the Iraqi regime executed 500 Iraqi citizens who were detained at the Abu Ghurayb prison, near Baghdad, in mid-March.

According to the opposition sources in southern Iraq, quoted by the bureau of the SAIRI [the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq], the authorities in Baghdad executed the said prisoners, having accused them of involvement in the popular uprising of March 1991 against the regime following the defeat of the Iraqi Army during the war of liberation of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Iraq: Defector al-Khazraji Interviewed on Internal Situation

MM1704141096 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 16 Apr 96 p 5

[Interview with Staff General Nizar al-Khazraji, former Iraqi chief of staff who defected to Jordan recently, by Salamah Ni'mat in Amman; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Ni'mat] How did you come to leave the General Staff?

[Al-Khazraji] I left it on 19 September 1990; that is, six weeks after the invasion of Kuwait.

[Ni'mat] Why?

[Al-Khazraji] The invasion was staged by the Republican Guard forces without my knowledge. It came as a surprise to me, since the Republican Guard forces were linked directly to the commander in chief (Saddam Husayn). I was summoned to the General Command, where I was informed of the situation. Of course, it was a catastrophe, since Iraq had been aspiring to become a defender of the Arab nation. It was a surprise. I had two options: either to condemn and reject such an action, and that could involve numerous consequences, including execution; or to perform my duty as an Iraqi official — which I did. I met with Saddam Husayn three days after the invasion. He told me that he had not informed the General Staff or the [Defense] Ministry because the job was carried out by the Republican Guard, which is linked to him personally, and also in order to stop the chief of staff and the General Staff from moving toward Kuwait, so that the plan would not be uncovered. Of course, I was not convinced of this justification, and he (Saddam) knew I would not be convinced. In the light of that, I wrote a strategic report and an operational report. The first report explained the dangers surrounding Iraq after its invasion of Kuwait, saying that the world as a whole would oppose this action, which would put us on a collision course with an important section of the world, and the outcome would be the loss of Iraq and the regime. I referred the report to the commander in chief three days after the invasion.

I submitted my second report on 28 August 1990. It explained that war was inevitable (the allies had already sent some forces). There were clear indications. I explained the potential dangers for Iraq. I also explained the status of the balance of powers, saying that Iraq would lose the war. A meeting was held at the General Command on 18 September to discuss my two reports in Saddam Husayn's presence. I began by reviewing the strategic and field situation and explaining the balance of powers and the huge technological gap between the coalition forces and the Iraqi forces, which were exhausted after the eight-year war with Iran. We had been expecting a phase of relaxation and prosperity. The commander in chief expressed his anger and ended the meeting before I finished my report. Saddam told me that I was speaking as though I wanted the world as a whole to come fight us. I told him that states such as the United States, Britain, and France, in addition to some Arab states, and maybe Iran, Syria, and Israel, would participate in a war against us, and that we had probably provided them with an excuse to do so. Actually he (Saddam) did not believe that there would be a war. He thought that the military deployments in the Gulf were merely a show of strength and a bluff. He believes that democracies are very weak because their leaders are elected by no more than 51 percent of the people and thus they cannot engage in long wars such as the Vietnam war and others.

A representative of the commander in chief was sent to me the following day, carrying a message from him saying that the current stage requires that your post be changed, and I thank you for your efforts in the al-Qadisiyah battle. You have now been appointed an adviser at the presidency. We wish you success...signed: Saddam Husayn.

[Ni'mat] Is it true that you had a special relationship with Fadil al-Barrak, former director of intelligence?

[Al-Khazraji] That is true. I met Fadil al-Barrak in Moscow when I was assistant to the military attache at the embassy. He, too, was an assistant to the military attache. We became friends and then we returned to Iraq. I was appointed division commander, corps commander, and then assistant chief of staff and later chief of staff. He held security posts...security director and intelligence director, before being moved to the presidency as an adviser. Then he was eliminated.

[Ni'mat] What is the background to Fadil al-Barrak's elimination?

[Al-Khazraji] Fadil al-Barrak was close to the family (Saddam's family), even though he was not a relative. By virtue of his relationship and post, he knew many secrets. It seems that anyone who knows many secrets in Iraq is destined to be eliminated. He was accused of taking bribes and of theft. He was also accused of having made contacts with other states. I think the real reason was that Fadil al-Barrak — by virtue of his knowing all the secrets — lost confidence in Saddam Husayn. He told me so at the time. I was working in the Army then. I advised him not to talk too much, because his statements could be leaked, but it seems that he spoke....

[Ni'mat] Is it true that there was negligence on his part which allowed Iraqi organs to be infiltrated by Israeli and other organs?

[Al-Khazraji] I do not think so. Fadil al-Barrak was not responsible for any infiltration. It seems that they discovered that Fadil al-Barrak had a relationship with a person who was working in Germany. This person was also charged and executed with him and a group of friends at the end of 1991.

[Ni'mat] If you had no knowledge of the decision to invade Kuwait, who had?

[Al-Khazraji] The ring close to Saddam Husayn: specifically Husayn Kamil and his [Saddam's] two sons. There was complete secrecy. Republican Guard units trained in the south near the border, and there was nothing unusual about their movements.

[Ni'mat] What information do you have about what happened to Husayn Kamil after his entry into Iraqi territory? Do you have any details?

[Al-Khazraji] Husayn Kamil made contacts to secure his return from Jordan. I know that Saddam Husayn convened the Revolution Command Council as the highest executive authority and the [Ba'th] Party Regional Command as the highest party authority. He told them that he wanted to issue a pardon for Husayn Kamil. Of course, they all signed the pardon. Husayn Kamil returned, but he was not allowed to return to any of the palaces in which he had lived in the al-Radwaniyah district. So he went to stay in his sister's house in al-Sayyidiyah, a city built for officers. His sister was a divorcee. Then arrangements were made for Saddam's two daughters to ask to be divorced from Husayn Kamil and his brother Saddam. So Saddam gathered members of his family in al-'Awjah village in Tikrit. They brought a ma'dhun [official authorized to perform civil marriage] and summoned Husayn and Saddam Kamil. The two requests for divorce were read, and the ma'dhun asked Husayn Kamil and his brother whether they agreed to a divorce. They said "yes," so the divorce procedures were carried out. They were told to leave the place quickly, so they rushed to Baghdad. After the divorce, Saddam Husayn told those present: As far as we are concerned, the two daughters are divorced, they now have nothing to do with them (Husayn and Saddam Kamil), and the pardon decree is an official measure...that is, it means nothing. You are his [Husayn Kamil's] family and relatives...the decision is yours. Then he left the meeting.

I was on my way to Mosul on the second day of the 'Id. I saw Rukan 'Abd-al-Ghafur (one of Saddam Husayn's escorts) and another escort in two Mercedes. They were wearing the red headdress in a manner which in that area indicates an intention of taking revenge. It seems that they were on their way to gather a number of family members to take revenge. Some 50 individuals were gathered from among security staffers and relatives. They headed for Husayn Kamil's sister's house in al-Sayyidiyah. The roads leading to the city were closed. 'Udayy and Qusayy [Saddam's sons] and 'Ali Hasan al-Majid [former defense minister] were with them to run the elimination operation. 'Udayy reportedly fired the first rocket on the house, and a clash ensued. Husayn Kamil, his brothers Saddam and Hakim, and their father Kamil Hasan al-Majid were killed. Husayn Kamil was the last to be killed, as he emerged from the house wounded and asked to see his uncle ('Ali Hasan al-Majid). He was shot dead by a security staffer named Marwan. He was dragged to his uncle who fired more shots into his body, even though he was already dead.

[Ni'mat] What happened to Husayn Kamil's and Saddam Kamil's children? Were they killed too?

[Al-Khazraji] I do not know for sure. I have heard that they are in the care of Saddam Husayn's family. It has been confirmed that the children of Husayn Kamil's sister were killed, as they were inside the house.

[Ni'mat] Is it true that at one point you were associated with Husayn Kamil?

[Al-Khazraji] Not at all. I am a professional officer. I joined the Military College in 1955 and graduated in 1958. I held various posts: company commander, battalion commander, division commander, and so on. That man (Husayn Kamil) had not been born or was only just born when I joined the Military College. He volunteered as a soldier in the Air Force. He had not even finished his primary education. Then Barzan (al-Tikriti), who was director of intelligence, moved him to his office. He was just a sergeant. As he worked for the intelligence service, he became a security staffer and one of the guards who stood in front of the gate of the intelligence service building. He was very active. Fadil (al-Barrak), may God have mercy on him, told me that whenever he went to see Barzan al-Tikriti, he (Husayn Kamil) would rush to the car to open the door. Barzan noticed his diligence and included him in the protection group belonging to Saddam Husayn. Saddam admired him when he saw how quick he was in pushing people away from him. When he was told that he was the president's nephew, he promoted him to the rank of lieutenant. He continued to promote him yearly or every two years until he was appointed in 1986 as a supervisor to reorganize the Republican Guard forces. The commander of the Republican Guard at the time did not have direct access to Saddam, so Husayn Kamil became the link.

The important thing is that I had no link with the man. I saw him several times. He hated professional officers like me, because he knew that we knew his background and that the ranks conferred on him were not real. We used to avoid him because he was spiteful.

[Ni'mat] Why did Husayn Kamil return to Baghdad to meet his fate?

[Al-Khazraji] In the first place, Saddam Husayn's children grew up and they wanted the high positions which Husayn Kamil had, especially in the military industrialization field.... He controlled billions of pounds and they wanted a part of the spoils. A struggle for influence began. At one meeting Husayn Kamil said more than he should have, so he was suspended for a while and then reinstated in his posts...but the enmity continued with 'Udayy, who used to call him corporal not Staff General Husayn Kamil. 'Udayy began to harass Husayn Kamil and interfere in his work, and Husayn Kamil realized that he would be held accountable for the billions that were spent...so he escaped. Apparently the biggest mistake he committed when defecting was that he took Saddam Husayn's two daughters with him.... That was a major stab coming from a person who hails from a tribe. Perhaps he thought that he could use the two daughters as a means of pressure. Contacts appear to have taken place and when (Husayn Kamil) was rejected by all the opposition factions, he thought that Saddam Husayn might need him again and might forgive him. He even stated that some plans were waiting for him.... Stupid, that was the mentality of a stupid person.

[Ni'mat] After the killing of Husayn Kamil, how do you view the future in Iraq?

[Al-Khazraji] Whether before or after he was killed...there is no hope of Saddam reconsidering his policy toward the world and the international community or his repression of the Iraqi people. Saddam Husayn believes that the method he uses with the Iraqis is what keeps him at the top of power. Iraq has now become a fragmented entity and the people are left without dignity, divided, and lacking self-confidence and confidence in everything else.... They have no future...but Saddam is outwardly very satisfied and has no intention of reconsidering.

[Ni'mat] But has the regime not been weakened by all these setbacks?

[Al-Khazraji] Since the Kuwait operation and the sanctions which followed, Saddam has not recognized the new facts...he considers what happened to be a victory and not a defeat and sees it as an example to be followed not a destruction and partition of Iraq.... The poor people who sacrificed do not deserve that. Basically, the Iraqi people lost confidence in Saddam Husayn a long time ago.... The people have been under the intense hegemony and yoke of one family.... If the people got the chance to express themselves, they would rise up, perhaps violently. We remember the 1991 events and what happened after the war.

[Ni'mat] What made you leave Iraq? And why now?

[Al-Khazraji] I left because of all these reasons. I had been contemplating leaving for some time. It is difficult to move while inside.... My telephone contacts were monitored. There is control and continuous patrols, and there were guards. I had eight guards in a cabin at the front of the house.... They were supposed to protect me as an official...former chief of staff and adviser.... These were special guards instructed to obey orders from above at all times, but they also informed those above about everyone who visited me and came in and went out, and of all movements. In other words, there is no room for movement inside Iraq and it is very difficult to do anything.

In 1969, my uncle Ibrahim Faysal al-Ansari was Army chief of staff. He was sent to prison for life for opposing the political authority's interference in the Army. After his imprisonment I was sent to Moscow so that I would not be in Iraq and affected by his imprisonment. I had the rank of staff captain at the time. Saddam came to Moscow and I met with him there and we talked about Ibrahim al-Ansari. I tried to explain to him some things about the reasons for my uncle's imprisonment. He was convinced, but he said: After the October 1963 developments (the attempt to stage a coup against the party by 'Abd-al-Salam 'Arif), we will not allow anyone who says "in the name of God" to continue the sentence and say "the merciful and the compassionate".... In other words we are not prepared to have another October [coup]. (At that time Saddam Husayn was deputy regional secretary general [of the Ba'th Party]). When Saddam feels that someone has begun to act suspiciously — and that, sometimes, is just rumors — he nips it in the bud....

I thought about leaving over a year ago. Five months ago, I began planning my exit, which took four and a half months. As a known figure, I was under surveillance...special security patrols, intelligence observation, and guards at the door. So my departure required four and a half months of camouflage.

I made that decision because there was no hope and because the people were dying day after day...with the country fragmented and a part of it virtually severed.... In the south there were killings, massacres, and daily clashes with the armed forces. There was starvation, a high cost of living, terror in the cities.... Iraqi has no future without radical change.

[Ni'mat] How are military and political decisions made in Iraq?

[Al-Khazraji] Saddam has an inner circle. In the past it consisted of Husayn Kamil, 'Abd Hammud, 'Udayy, and Qusayy. He used to inform them of his decisions sometimes. I am sure that Husayn Kamil was behind the invasion of Kuwait because he was very enthusiastic about that operation and, in fact, he was enthusiastic about going further than Kuwait. Now the inner circle is the same but without Husayn Kamil.

[Ni'mat] How does Saddam deal with the Army commanders?

[Al-Khazraji] What is left of the Army commanders consists of those who are either grudgingly satisfied or who are weak elements.... He orders and they obey because he has gotten rid of the elements who may have had an opinion or were capable of making decisions.

[Ni'mat] What information do you have about the death of 'Adnan Khayrallah in 1989?

[Al-Khazraji] When I was chief of staff, 'Adnan Khayrallah was defense minister. When Husayn Kamil joined the (inner) circle and began to attract military and scientific bodies, 'Adnan Khayrallah reacted violently. Incidentally, 'Adnan Khayrallah was the best element in the family...a professional soldier, polite, educated, good, and loved by the Army.... He was the white sheep in that black family. His relations with Saddam Husayn were excellent but they deteriorated when Husayn Kamil's star rose in 1986 and 1987. I recall that 'Adnan Khayrallah used to speak out strongly against Husayn Kamil. I frequently gave him advice and told him that he should not speak out in front of a certain number of commanders because such talk was useless and would only increase estrangement and tension within the family. He used to express surprise, and about Husayn Kamil he used to say: That illiterate person...how did he bewitch Saddam Husayn?... This will destroy Iraq and the Iraqi Army. When I told him that it would be better to talk to Saddam in a family meeting, he said: Do you think he would let me do that?

During a holiday, 'Adnan Khayrallah went to the north and returned by helicopter. The weather was bad. He, may God have mercy on his soul, was adventurous and liked flying a lot. The accident occurred. Was it premeditated? I do not know.... There is no evidence.

[Ni'mat] Is it true that Saddam is preparing his son to succeed him?

[Al-Khazraji] Saddam used the abnormal conditions which prevailed all these years to liquidate all the leaderships that could pose a threat to his monopoly of power and he kept the weak and submissive elements. He used enticement and intimidation. Whoever had a weak personality was approached with money and benefits. Whoever was strong was tackled by fabricating an incident to liquidate him, followed by pretexts such as the claim that such people had links with Syria or were cowards in battle or that their enthusiasm was not suited to that particular phase. Now 'Udayy Saddam Husayn is the number two in Iraq. Imagine, no senior state official can be appointed without the approval of the Olympic Committee [headed by 'Udayy]. Commanders and senior officers can only be appointed by a decision from a committee consisting of the defense minister, the general command secretary, and Qusayy, who is the head of special security...and of course Qusayy would have the final say. The family controls everything. 'Udayy is now referred to within his group as "the honorable crown prince," as if we were not a republican country supposedly led by a party.

[Ni'mat] What do the people think of all that?

[Al-Khazraji] The people are helpless, afraid and intimidated, struggling for food to eat, but these very same people will overthrow Saddam Husayn, and the very same armed forces will overthrow Saddam.

[Ni'mat] What is the relationship between 'Udayy and Qusayy like?

[Al-Khazraji] 'Udayy is a fool...a drunkard whose hunger for wealth, assault on the honor of others, and abuse of others is never satisfied.... Look at his clothes.

Qusayy seems to me to be more intelligent and less erroneous at the social level. 'Udayy is known publicly for his strange and abnormal behavior, but Qusayy is more clever and more cunning.

[Ni'mat] What are the reasons that, months ago, led to the dismissal of 'Ali Hasan al-Majid from the defense ministry and what qualifications got him to that post anyway, bearing in mind that he was only a warrant officer?

[Al-Khazraji] His qualifications consist of his kinship to Saddam Husayn.... He is his cousin. Those are his qualifications.

[Ni'mat] And why was he ousted?

[Al-Khazraji] Saddam punishes even his relatives. He appoints Barzan chief of intelligence and then dismisses him and he appoints Watban interior minister and then dismisses him.... Even his own brothers.... He appointed

Husayn Kamil industry minister, supervisor of five ministries, and head of the Military Industrialization Authority, and then sent him home without any post, and then reinstated him. 'Ali Hasan al-Majid is illiterate, he derives his strength from Saddam Husayn, and he is arrogant and violent. He suffers from diabetes and is always shouting at the soldiers and officers. Financially he is corrupt...they call him the thief of Baghdad. Sometimes, to improve the image, Saddam changes these faces. Now he has brought in Lieutenant General Sultan Hashim as defense minister. He is a professional soldier, unlike Husayn Kamil, 'Ali Hasan al-Majid, and 'Izzat al-Duri who do not even have an elementary certificate. Al-Duri, the deputy, was a worker who used to carry ice blocks in a factory. He reads and writes with difficulty. Now his reading and writing have improved. He rose in party ranks until he became a staff general.

'Ali Hasan al-Majid was an assistant corporal in the Air Force. The best military position he deservedly occupied was that of a driver of a fuel tanker which supplied fuel to aircraft.... Now he is a staff general.

[Ni'mat] You were once an adviser to the president. What is the role and what are the responsibilities of an adviser?

[Al-Khazraji] It depends on how Saddam Husayn looks at it. The post of adviser is an honorary post meant to keep people who had occupied important posts around. An adviser stays at home and does not have office hours. He is summoned when necessary. I was only consulted once in July 1994, that is four years after my appointment to that post. My opinion was sought regarding the second threat to Kuwait and the possibility of a second blow to Iraq. I said that we should refrain from any more threats because the allies would strike and destroy everything we had rebuilt.... Of course, that view was not heeded.

The meeting lasted half an hour. We were supposed to meet with Saddam Husayn personally but were told that he suddenly had another engagement. With me at the time was the former Air Force commander and secretary of the general command. Our views were similar. The person who received us was Secretary 'Abd Hammud, who recorded everything we said, to be conveyed to the commander in chief.

[Ni'mat] Do you have a program of action?

[Al-Khazraji] Certainly. I have not come out to Jordan for the purpose of rest and relaxation. I reached the conviction that my exit would facilitate the process of changing the regime in Iraq.... There definitely is a program based on a clear analysis of how to work to change the regime and what is to be done after the change.

[Ni'mat] Do you propose yourself as an alternative?

[Al-Khazraji] The people provide the alternative. We have to do our duty as Iraqis and as officers who spent our lives serving that Army and the country in the interest of preserving its unity and its people's honor.... We must do our duty.

[Ni'mat] Have you decided to join the Iraqi National Accord Movement?

[Al-Khazraji] I have not joined the movement, but I have met with the movement's secretary and some of its members. When we discussed our views, we found them close and even identical in part.... So I decided to cooperate with it in my capacity as Nizar al-Khazraji, to cooperate with the military inside Iraq and abroad, and to cooperate with any other movement close to the objectives I have mentioned, but I am not a part of the National Accord Movement.

[Ni'mat] In your view, what position would the Iraqi regime take if the pressure on it continued and the blockade was not eased?

[Al-Khazraji] The Iraqi regime now has no card to threaten the world with, but the worse the situation gets the more it affects the people inside.... There would be more pressure, terror, false promises, and subjugation and humiliation of the people and the armed forces. That is the only thing the regime can do. No power in the world today wants to be involved with Saddam Husayn's regime.

[Ni'mat] What decision is Saddam expected to make to end his dilemma?

[Al-Khazraji] He relies on the fact that Iraq is a rich and strategically important country, that it has great resources, and the assumption that there are some powers in the world who would reconsider the question of dealing with Iraq for mutual advantage, but, as we have seen, all the influential powers in the world are fully convinced that there should be no deals with Saddam Husayn's regime. My view is that there is no way out for Saddam even if he decides to give in to the UN resolutions...because his continuing lack of credibility in dealing with the international community has closed all doors. The main problem is that Saddam Husayn has not understood and will never understand the international community. His capacity for internal plotting is matched by his great failure to understand international ethics.

[Ni'mat] Would the Iraqi regime benefit from the implementation of Resolution 986?

[Al-Khazraji] Certainly, because the Iraqi people look forward to any achievement, however small, that would improve the economic situation, and if that situation improves, Saddam would say: You see how the international community capitulated?... This is the first step I promised you toward termination of the blockade.... That would lessen public hostility toward Saddam Husayn.

[Ni'mat] Why did you decide to move to Jordan in particular?

[Al-Khazraji] Because the positions taken by Jordan, as an Arab country, toward the Iraqi regime have been clear. I believe Jordan cares about the Iraqi people's interests, and it has come to the conclusion that there is no hope of Saddam reconsidering his position and has therefore taken its known stance. When I was chief of staff I came to Jordan and met with his majesty the king, who awarded me the first class medal of merit. Many Iraqis, military and civilian, are now in Jordan, which is the closest Arab country with no old problems with Iraq. When I raised the matter with the brothers here, they told me: This is your second home.

[Ni'mat] When do you expect the change to take place, and how?

[Al-Khazraji] The people, like the armed forces, are ready for change. They need leaders who know their history and who have credibility, people who are unblemished and who led them to victory in the past. We have not come out for fun.... I have lost everything I had in Iraq...everything I built over 40 years, not to mention the subsequent dangers to my kinfolk, relatives, and tribe. I have decided that Iraq is greater and more important than all that. There is a complete picture in my mind of what should happen and, God willing, will happen.

Israel: Peres—No Option Except Arrangement With Syria, Lebanon

TA1704162996 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1405 GMT 17 Apr 96

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] The mediation efforts are focusing on Lebanon, and indirectly on Syria. As far as Israel is concerned, Hizballah is not a partner. Here is what the prime minister said on this issue today:

[Begin Peres recording] We are not negotiating with Hizballah. If we did, no agreement would be achieved. We launched our operation in order to get Lebanon and Syria interested in pressuring Hizballah to stop acting the way it has been acting. In my opinion, we have gotten them interested, and negotiations are therefore possible.

De facto, Syria is Lebanon's sponsor. There are nearly 1 million Syrian workers who come to jobs in Lebanon daily. It is a question of economy, and since life has been disrupted, both Syria and Lebanon have a stake in restoring normal life. We had to operate with sufficient force to create this stake, but at the same time, we had to exercise utmost caution in order to avoid killing innocent people. So far about 40 people have been killed in Lebanon. I think one third or half of them were Hizballah men, although Hizballah has denied it. In Hizballah communiques, every van is an ambulance, and every terrorist a pregnant woman.

Ultimately there will be no choice but to reach a peace arrangement with Syria and Lebanon. Everything we are doing at present is temporary. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Israel: Beilin Meets Butrus-Ghali, Says No Date To End Operation

TA1804063396 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Minister Yosi Beilin said Israel has not set a date for completing the operation in Lebanon. According to him, Israel will halt the fire in Lebanon if Hizballah stops firing katyushas at the northern settlements. Minister Beilin made these remarks in a meeting in New York with UN Secretary Butrus-Ghali. He accused Iran of exploiting Lebanon through Hizballah and the Palestinians through Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] in order to hurt Israel.

Minister Beilin further told Butrus-Ghali that Israel has been easing the closure on the territories, particularly with regard to humanitarian issues.

Israel: More on Disagreements With U.S. Over Lebanon Understandings

TA1804075896 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Apr 96 p A2

[Report by Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Text] Disagreements emerged between Israel and the United States in the negotiations on the understandings designed to end Operation Grapes of Wrath over issues pertaining to the ways in which honoring the understandings and observing the calm in south Lebanon will be enforced. The United States proposed that an international supervising organ assume this responsibility and serve as an arbiter. Israel is demanding that the understandings state that the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] will be free to react should Hizballah continue to fire from the villages or operate in other ways. Israel has set three goals and presented them in the negotiations:

— To stop the firing of katyushas at the Galilee for a long period of time. This is the main demand and is the reason for the operation.

— To allow the IDF freedom to react against sources of Hizballah fire, even inside the villages. This would prevent a variety of interpretations regarding the rules of conduct, as seen in Lebanon over the past several months.

— To make the Lebanese Government responsible for the prevention of Hizballah activities in the villages, including preparing explosive charges, training squads and allowing them to stay in the villages prior to an attack, and having command posts to supervise operations against the IDF or the SLA [South Lebanese Army]. Israel does not wish to dictate the methods by which the villages should be dealt with, but if the preventive measures should fail, Israel would be free to react against Hizballah in the villages.

The draft of understandings presented to Israel on 15 April had already been rewritten several times. In the talks Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq and political coordinator Uri Savir held with U.S. Administration representatives, Israel made it clear that it does not expect Hizballah to be dismantled or to disappear. It believes that a comprehensive solution will be possible only within the framework of a political process that will lead to peace with Syria and Lebanon. The Israeli representatives said they are aware of the fact that the current operation will not put an end to Hizballah activities against the IDF and the SLA.

Israel also made it clear that it will remain in control of the security zone until a comprehensive arrangement is attained. During the talks, it was pointed out that when intensive negotiations were held with the Syrians and whenever the U.S. secretary of state visited the area, Hizballah tempered its activity in the security zone.

During the contacts, the parties examined the possibility of putting some or all of the understandings that would end the operation in writing. Israel made it clear that it will not negotiate or sign agreements with Hizballah or Iran but only with Syria and Lebanon, through the United States.

The Americans proposed that an apparatus be set up to make sure that the understandings are implemented and honored in bilateral, trilateral, or four-way (Israel, the United States, Syria, and Lebanon) frameworks. Israel was not enthusiastic about the idea. Its position is based on the principle that the reality that will be created is more important that the wording of the understandings.

In the Israeli cabinet, views differ on the appropriate time to end the operation. Meretz ministers and Minister Yosi Beilin want a cease-fire to be introduced as soon as the firing of katyushas stops. The foreign minister believes that the IDF attacks should stop only when concrete understandings are attained that will guarantee at least two years of quiet. Baraq fears that Hizballah start to fire again after a brief pause and at a painful time for Israel, which would not be able to once again retaliate by force.

Last week, Baraq said he would consider maintaining the quiet for two years, until after Israel's 50th Independence Day, an achievement. During that period, the political process with Syria and Lebanon should resume and the question of whether it is possible to attain a stable peace arrangement that will secure a comprehensive solution for the problem of south Lebanon would be answered.

Israel rejected Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri's proposal that it first stop the fire and then start political negotiations. The proposal was relayed to Israel by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, who spoke to his Israeli counterpart Baraq. Israel made it clear that al-Hariri is presenting an ambiguous stand: He claims that his government is too weak to deal with Hizballah, while demanding that Israel stop its attacks on Hizballah. Israel announced that it will go on with the operation until understandings are attained.

The main difference between Operation Grapes of Wrath and Operation Accountability three years ago is in the decision to bomb Beirut. At the time, Yitzhaq Rabin, then prime minister and defense minister, decided to refrain from bombing Beirut in order not to attack an Arab capital and create an escalation.

Israel currently sees that the international reaction to the operation is not harsh and believes that the moderate stand, adopted by the Arab world as well, is the result of the peace process. That process started shortly after Operation Accountability, when the Oslo accords were signed.

Israel: Army Said Demanding Different Cease-Fire Terms Than Government

TA1704180696 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 Apr 96

[Studio report by political correspondent Nisim Mish'al]

[FBIS Translated Text] The military and the political echelons disagree on the terms for a cease-fire with Hizballah. The political echelons were about to accept a U.S. proposal for a cease-fire in exchange for a renewed commitment to the original document of understandings of July 1993. The initial U.S. proposal was drafted following telephone consultations between Secretary Christopher and his Syrian counterpart Faruq al-Shar'. The Syrians were ready to pledge that Hizballah would adhere to the letter of the document of understandings, without interpretations or expansions — the same interpretations that prompted the collapse of the agreement, as a result of which Operation Grapes of Wrath was launched.

In internal consultations with the prime minister, the military echelons, headed by the chief of staff, urged rejecting the U.S. Administration's proposal. They sought a guarantee that under no circumstances would Hizballah be able to launch katyushas at Israel or fire out of south Lebanese villages. The army chiefs further asked to be allowed to fully exhaust the planned military option. Their reason: The operation's objectives are being met beyond all expectations.

At this stage Israel has contacted the Americans and asked to expand the proposed agreement to include the clause requested by the army chiefs that prohibits Hizballah from firing at Israel. The U.S. Administration did not like the Israeli amendment demand and tried to argue, but promised to check with the Syrians. A report received from Washington tonight indicates that the Syrians are in no rush to reply, which Jerusalem explains as part of the Syrian game of nerves.

Tomorrow the Americans will make another attempt to achieve the parties' consent to the agreement they have drafted; at least, that is what Dennis Ross promised Uri Savir tonight.

Israel: France's de Charette Informs Baraq of Lebanese Position

TA1704153196 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] French Foreign Minister de Charette met with Foreign Minister Ehud Baraq in Tel Aviv and briefed him on his talks in Beirut. Our correspondent Dan Eshel has learned that Lebanon reiterated the stand that it will defend the security zone if the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] withdraws from it. The French are speaking of a full implementation of the understandings achieved in 1993.

The French foreign minister said he is extending his visit to the region in a bid to be at the parties' disposal.

Israel: Peres Says France Should Coordinate Positions With U.S.

TA1804102296 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1000 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres conferred with French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette in his Tel Aviv office at noon today and clarified at length Israel's position regarding the situation in the north. Our correspondent Dan Eshel reports that the prime minister proposed to France to coordinate its positions with the United States and said Israel recognizes France's special interest in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, it was reported that the U.S. secretary of state phoned his French counterpart and that the two men agreed to coordinate the specifics of their proposals to stop the fire in the north. A French expert accompanying Minister de Charette is scheduled to confer with the U.S. ambassador to Israel today.

Israel: Senior Official Accuses France of Trying To 'Upstage' U.S.

TA1804044996 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The United States is anticipating a response today from Syria on Washington's proposals to end the fighting in Lebanon. Damascus is expected to respond, now that the meeting of Arab foreign ministers of the Arab League in Cairo has concluded. Sources in Washington added that the U.S. Government is not happy over the French diplomatic intervention and has reservations over Paris' ties with Tehran.

A senior Israeli official accused France of trying to upstage the United States. The official told reporter David Ze'ev he believed French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette had extended his trip to the Middle East to take advantage of the fact that U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has been busy elsewhere. Christopher is currently with President Bill Clinton in Japan. The President said his secretary of state has been holding contacts by phone to resolve the Israeli-Hizballah conflict.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0400 GMT on 18 April adds: "Our political correspondent Shlomo Raz reports that Israel is prepared to enter negotiations with Lebanon on the future of the security zone if Hizballah is disbanded and the security of northern Israel is guaranteed. An initiative to hold yet another round of talks between Israel and Syria next month, prior to the Israeli elections, is under way in the context of the contacts concerning Lebanon."]

Israel: French Foreign Minister To Leave for Cairo, Damascus, Beirut

LD1704125296 Paris France-2 Television Network in French 1100 GMT 17 Apr 96

[Report by Patrick Chene]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli forces are continuing to shell villages in south Lebanon. About 30 attacks took place this morning while Hizballah announced rocket attacks on northern Israel, as they have done every day for the last week. The Lebanese Hizballah has rejected the U.S. cease-fire plan with Israel. We will now link up with our correspondent in Israel, Charles Enderlin. French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette met his Israeli counterpart [Ehud Baraq] earlier — we can see from these pictures, Herve de Charette arriving for this meeting. The diplomatic aspect is clear in this context, Charles, but it looks like a very difficult situation?

[Enderlin] In Jerusalem, and here in Tel Aviv where the French foreign minister is at the moment, as you have said, it is thought that it might well last about a week. A week of contact is expected at the end of which an agreement may be reached which is in the process of being prepared.

[Chene] Herve de Charette is continuing his mission in the region. He has even announced that he will not be leaving until peace has been agreed. Charles, do you know where the French foreign minister will be going to next?

[Enderlin] Cairo has been mentioned. His plane should take off at about 1500-1600 French time [1300-1400 GMT]. After Cairo, there are rumors that there will be further visits to Damascus and Beirut. However, nothing is certain. It is being decided at this very moment.

[Chene] Without being absolutely pessimistic, there is not much hope, however, for a diplomatic outcome in the next few hours?

[Enderlin] There are rumors that it will take a week but diplomatic efforts have begun. Things have got underway reasonably well. The Syrians have heard the Americans proposals. The Hizballah have rejected them but at the moment it is thought that this rejection is natural. There are not expected to be any quick developments.

Israel: Minister Faults Peres, Seeks Inner Cabinet Hand in Campaign

TA1804064196 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] This morning, Minister Amnon Rubinstein leveled criticism at Prime Minister Shim'on Peres for failing to convene the inner cabinet. Interviewed by Qol Yisra'el, Rubinstein said the inner cabinet should have regular control of the operation in Lebanon.

Israel: Peres Sees Operation Every Few Years If No Permanent Accord

TA1804084196 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 18 Apr 96 p A3

[Report by Ron Kaufman]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] "We are seeking two arrangements: An interim arrangement that would allow the fighting to stop, and a subsequent permanent arrangement with Lebanon. Had it not been for the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operation, there would not be an interest to that effect on the other side. What you are doing, in fact, is creating an interest on the other side to stop the fire." These remarks were made yesterday by Shim'on Peres, prime minister and defense minister, during a visit to an air force pilotless aircraft base in northern Israel. [passage omitted]

The soldiers posed questions to the prime minister. One of the questions addressed the terms required to guarantee that the IDF will not have to launch another operation. He said: "I believe we will have to go back there every couple of years, unless we attain a permanent arrangement with Syria and Lebanon; however, I believe we now have a better chance of attaining a permanent arrangement, because until now, Hafiz al-Asad sought strategic parity with Israel. I believe he has given this up; the Syrians are now talking of economic parity. Their opening stands are very tough, but they are interested in attaining an arrangement. It is a slow process, but I foresee progress."

Peres said Israel does not know of an airlift of katyushas from Iran to Damascus. "I do not know about this. We have no piece of information that can be viewed as an airlift. The whole thing seems baseless to me."

Regarding statements by IDF officers according to which it will take many more days for the operation to end successfully, Peres said: "The political and the military echelons are advised to exercise patience. We are not certain that the operation will end in a day, 24 hours, or a few days. I would prefer that we be pleasantly surprised, which means we should be patient."

Regarding the memorandum of understandings with Syria, Peres stressed that negotiations involving Syria, Lebanon, the United States, and Israel are under way, with each having its own point of view. "We seek a written document, which is preferable to oral understandings. At the same time, we would not like to raise expectations, because we will not solve all the problems."

Peres was asked whether, after the fighting stops, an attack on the security zone will be considered equal to an attack on the Galilee, and he replied: "We have no understandings yet, and I would not like to make predictions. No one wants to expand the problem. I believe everyone is looking for a way to solve the problem." [passage omitted]

Israel: Air Force Raids Targets North of Security Zone

TA1704191196 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Air Force continued to raid terrorist targets north of the security zone today. The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman announced that all our planes returned safely to base, and the pilots reported accurate hits.

The IDF has informed the south Lebanese population that it will continue to operate against terrorists tonight, and that they may only use roads to the north because anyone driving to the south may be harmed. This was reported by our correspondent Karmela Menashe.

Israel: Labor, Netanyahu Reject Sharon's Call To Expand Security Zone

TA1704175996 Jerusalem Channel 2 Television Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 16 Apr 96

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Likud Knesset Member Ari'el Sharon said today that the security zone is too narrow. He believes that Israel should aim to have IDF [Israel Defense Forces] soldiers stationed on the al-Litani River bridges. He toured the western Galilee this afternoon and, although he refused to comment on the military aspects of the fighting in Lebanon, he told our correspondent Ya'ir Kahel that Israel should insist that the security zone be expanded as part of the cease-fire agreement. [passage omitted]

The Labor Party spokesman said in response that nothing will ever wash the blood of the victims off Ari'el Sharon's hands. The prime minister has no intention of repeating Sharon's miserable policy and sending the IDF soldiers back into the Lebanese quagmire.

And Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu told our political correspondent Gadi Sukenik today that he does not support the policy Ari'el Sharon and Refa'el Eytan have been professing. He said that there are means that can bring peace and quiet back to the region other than expanding the IDF hold on Lebanese soil.

Israel: More on Raids on PKK; IDF Spokesman Refuses Comment

TA1804072796 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 18 Apr 96

[Italicized passages recorded in English]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Here is a particularly interesting report about a Turkish connection to Operation Grapes of Wrath. According to Turkish military sources, this IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operation has already been integrated into the new agreement on military cooperation between Israel and Turkey. The sources told a Turkish television network that the IDF also operated in al-Biqa' against a Kurdish underground in Turkey operating under Syrian auspices and in cooperation with Hizballah. Gid'on Remez heard the report from the Turkish television correspondents:

[Begin recording] [Remez] Army sources in Ankara told Star TV's military correspondent that camps belonging to the PKK [Workers Party of Kurdistan], which has been waging a violent struggle in and outside Turkey to attain independence for the large Kurdish minority in southeast Turkey, were also attacked and destroyed in the Israeli Air Force raids on Hizballah targets in al-Biqa'.

[Gokhan Eran] *They were told that PKK camps within Lebanon, actually in the al-Biqa' Valley, were also bombed by the Israeli airplanes.*

[Remez] The casualty toll has not been released, Star TV's diplomatic correspondent Gokhan Eran told Qol Yisra'el. He visited those camps recently, and it seems to him that considering the IDF's sophisticated equipment, it is hard to believe that they were hit by mistake.

[Eran] *When you're working with such high technology equipment, the chance of mistakes are very little. The camps are right next to one another, but there's still probably something like 1 km difference in distance between them.*

[Remez] Eran told us: The two camps I visited — and there may be others — are close to Hizballah bases, about 1 km away. According to the latest reports, there are a few hundred PKK members in al-Biqa'. They train together with Hizballah and there are contacts between them, Eran said, but he did not know about operational cooperation between them against Israel. [passage omitted]

[Remez translates the above and continues] At this point, the IDF spokesman would not comment on our questions on the issue.

Eran further pointed out that the unknown exceeds the known where the defense agreement with Israel is concerned. In the past few years, when police cooperation against terror was first being discussed, we frequently asked the Israeli side whether this cooperation would include assisting Turkey in its war on the PKK, a struggle which aroused criticism due to the violation of human rights. The Israeli side always replied in the negative, while the Turks replied positively. Star TV's foreign news editor Oner Ceniskan added that there had been reports about such cooperation and that these had preceded the formal agreement.

[Ceniskan] *There have been some unconfirmed reports that during air attacks in northern Iraq by Turkish planes, Turkish aircraft, some intelligence reports may have come from America or Mosad or Israel.*

[Remez translates the above and continues] In any event, Hizballah raised a hue and cry with the Turks. A few days ago, ANATOLIA announced that security had been stepped up around Ambassador Alpeleg after Turkish intelligence reported that six Hizballah men had infiltrated in order to hit him and leaders of the ruling Turkish coalition, which recently prevented Turkish Islamists from joining the government. [end recording]

Israel: Gen. Vilna'i on Katyushas, Avoiding Harm to Civilians

TA1704163796 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1400 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Deputy Chief of Staff Matan Vilna'i says that the Hizballah katyusha rocket fire on northern Israel has become less accurate because of the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] activities on the front line. He also said that the Hizballah has suffered a higher number of casualties than it has reported. Major General Vilna'i spoke to our reporter in the north Alan Ben-'Ami:

[Begin recording] [Vilna'i] It is not an easy job to reduce the number of the katyusha rockets. We are not speaking about stopping it. We are talking only about reducing it, and we are doing our utmost in this to achieve this goal. I can say that the katyusha rockets of yesterday it was 70; but on the other side, it was on the border because they fire from the depth of the area, and secondly, it was not accurate as it was before. So, there were katyushas but much less accurate and on the border and not in the area as it was before.

[Ben-'Ami] You and other generals and politicians have said that this operation will go on as long as necessary. What is the end? When will you know that from your point of view the operation has ended successfully?

[Vilna'i] Militarily, from our point of view, we have no problem to continue many days, many weeks. No problem at all. On the other hand, I understand that on the political level there are negotiations. There is negotiations between the sides and maybe they will achieve something. From our point of view, there is no problem to continue as long as we need.

[Ben-'Ami] From the military point of view, what would you like to see as the end of this campaign? There were negotiations in the past. In Operation Accountability they reached certain conclusions, but those conclusions have not worked out, in effect, on the ground. That is why you are here once again.

[Vilna'i] We would like to see another behavior of the Hizballah groups in southern Lebanon. I believe that this goal we must achieve, and I am sure that our leaders will do their utmost in order to achieve this goal.

[Ben-'Ami] When you say another behavior of Hizballah in south Lebanon, and you are not seeking the expulsion of Hizballah from the area, you are seeking what — to limit their activity, the type of activity they do?

[Vilna'i] To limit the activities mostly around populated areas, using the civilians as shields on their side and using the civilians as targets on our side. This is part of it. Maybe the most important part of it. This is part of changing the behavior of Hizballah.

[Ben-'Ami] You mentioned civilians, and at the moment the civilians are out of the area. The IDF told them to leave the area, they streamed out and have gone to Beirut and the coastal area. They suffer a lot and in some cases they suffer casualties — civilians are still being hit.

[Vilna'i] Okay. First of all, most of the population left the area, but not all of it, and in every village you can find civilians, you can see vehicles moving between the villages and within the villages. So, it is not an area without civilians at all. This is one of the points that make it much more difficult to deal with the terrorists that are still within the civilians, although there is limited number of population in the area. Secondly, to compare the power, the fire power to the casualties, there is no rationale. We are using the fire power very carefully. We are doing our utmost not to hit targets within the civilians. We are sure that part of the so-called civilians they are reporting as casualties are Hizballah people that, from their point of view, are civilians. We are doing our utmost to lower the number of casualties in the civilian population.

[Ben-'Ami] What about humanitarian aid to the civilians still caught up in the firing area? The UN is trying to deliver supplies and help them, saying they have great difficulties. Yesterday they ran into shell fire trying to do this.

[Vilna'i] If incidents like this happen, it is not good. We will do our utmost in order that this will not happen again because we are not going after the civilians and we are not going to hit the UN forces in the area, and we know that the posts of the UN forces in the area are shelters for the people. Sometimes they are shooting katyusha rockets from very close to the UN posts, and we understand this and not shooting back in order not to hit the UN posts. If the UN is trying to give aid, we will help. If something happened here and there, we have to deal with it.

[Ben-'Ami] Overall, after a week of Operation Grapes of Wrath, how do you would you sum up the situation?

[Vilna'i] That it will continue, and you need time in order to understand what really happened. We are sure that in many points, Hizballah lost the ground and I am sure that they do not want the population to be out of the area. They are the shield of the population and using the population as shield for them. It is very complicated and we will hit more and more katyusha rockets. I am sure of it. [end recording]

Israel: Eighth Katyusha Volley in West Galilee; No Casualties

TA1704121996 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Eight volleys of katyushas have been fired at the Galilee since this morning. There have been no casualties, but several places have sustained some damage.

The eighth round, fired just before 1500 [1200 GMT], landed in the western Galilee. No one was hurt.

Israel: 2d Katyusha Salvo Fired at Galilee; No Injuries Reported

TA1804080696 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0705 GMT 18 Apr 96

[Report by Ilan Ro'e in northern Israel—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The second salvo of katyushas for the day landed here, in the Galilee Panhandle, about half an hour ago. It caused no casualties or damage. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew at 0700 GMT on 18 April adds that "the electricity grid of a settlement was damaged by the katyusha barrage fired at the Western Galilee earlier this morning."]

Israel: Peres Says Permanent Status Talks To Start 4 May

TA1704135296 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1300 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Shim'on Peres confirmed today that the permanent status negotiations with the Palestinians will be launched on 4 May. However, only a symbolic opening of the talks will be apparently held on that date, the actual discussions being expected to begin only after the elections.

Israel: Habash Allowed To Enter Autonomy; PA Seeks 'Abbas' Entry

TA1804045596 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0400 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Israel has given permission to George Habash, leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], to enter the Palestinian Autonomy. Habash is a member of the Palestine National Council [PNC], and the Palestinians asked Israel to allow him to enter the autonomy to attend the deliberations of the PNC, which is scheduled to amend the Palestinian Charter.

Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that during the night, the office of Major General Oren Shahor, coordinator of activities in the territories, approved the list of PNC members who will be allowed to enter the autonomy. Israel approved most of the names on the list presented by the Palestinians. Terrorist Layla Khalid will arrive in the autonomy today to attend the PNC session.

Prime Minister Shim'on Peres will confer with Yasir 'Arafat at the Erez checkpoint today. Among other issues, they will discuss the resumption of the peace process.

[Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English at 0400 GMT on 18 Apr 96 adds: "The Palestinian Authority [PA] has asked Israel to allow an additional 48 members of the PNC to return to the territories — this, so they can attend the PNC meeting in Gaza slated for Monday [22 April]. The PNC is to discuss removing clauses from their charter which call for the destruction of Israel. Included on the list is Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas]. He is responsible for the murder of the Haran family from Nahariyya 17 years ago. He's also responsible for the hijacking of the Achille Lauro cruise ship, which led to the killing of U.S. Jew Leon Klinghoffer. But George Habash, who heads the PFLP, says he will not attend the meeting. Habash's spokesman said the PFLP leader would not return until all Palestinians could go home."]

Israel: Security Chiefs Say 'Arafat 'Methodically' Destroying Hamas

TA1704183896 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Hebrew 1700 GMT 17 Apr 96

[Studio talk between anchor Hayim Yavin, political correspondent Nisim Mish'al, and Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [Yavin] Nisim, I understand that Peres will be meeting 'Arafat tomorrow. What can we expect?

[Mish'al] The meeting will take place at midday tomorrow. Uri Savir and Abu-Mazin [Mahmud 'Abbas] will also attend. The interesting part is the expected participation of the heads of the security services on both sides.

In consultations in the prime minister's office today the chief of staff and the Shin Bet chief said — and this is a very significant quote: 'Arafat is methodically acting to demolish the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] infrastructure in the Strip. It further transpired at the consultation that in his meeting with 'Arafat tomorrow, Shim'on Peres will insist that 'Arafat adopt the policy of demolishing the Hamas infrastructure as a long-term strategy.

We have further learned that the two sides agreed in secret contacts to intensify the cooperation between their security services, promoting the war on the Hamas infrastructure.

[Yavin] Ehud Ya'ari is also in the studio. I understand that you have a document about 'Arafat's war on Hamas, Ehud.

[Ya'ari, over video footage showing an explosion] Yes. This first video we see shows a seized Hamas ammunition warehouse on the Gaza waterfront. We have had this film since yesterday, but we could not show it because of the Lebanon events.

The defense establishment and our secret services believe that 'Arafat is truly taking action against the so-called Hamas infrastructure, and his action is at least two levels higher than any we have witnessed to date. What we can expect, therefore, is a sort of a package deal which may not be announced at the Erez meeting tomorrow, but it will include the annulment of the Palestinian Charter by the end of April; a possible postponement of the drafting of a new charter until after the elections; Israeli evacuation of a part of Hebron later on; and the launching of the permanent status negotiations on 4 May, as planned, with the negotiations themselves to take place later. [passage omitted]

[Jerusalem Channel 2 Television in Hebrew at 1700 GMT on 17 April carries a report by political correspondent 'Imanu'el Rosen, adding: "Tomorrow Shim'on Peres will tell 'Arafat: Sir, if fighting the Hamas infrastructure has become your strategy, we will meet our obligation of evacuating Hebron. The defense establishment today held a discussion, in which many officials participated, on the IDF preparations for the possible evacuation of Hebron prior to the elections."]

Israel: Polls Show Peres-Netanyahu Gap Unaffected by Lebanon Action

TA1804075996 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0405 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Polls commissioned by Labor show that Operation Grapes of Wrath has not affected the gap between Peres and Netanyahu. This was disclosed last night in a meeting of Labor's publicity campaign staff with Shim'on Peres. [passage omitted]

[Party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel] When Operation Grapes of Wrath started, Likud members became very nervous because they thought it would greatly enhance Shim'on Peres' security image and improve his electoral standing versus Binyamin Netanyahu. One week into the operation, however, polls commissioned by Labor show that the gap between the two contenders for the premiership remains unchanged and stands at approximately 5-7 percent. [passage omitted]

Jordan: Parliament Statement Condemns 'Brutal Israeli Attacks'

JN1804084396 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 18-19 Apr 96 pp 1, 7

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman (Petra) — The Lower House of Parliament on Wednesday [17 April] expressed total support for His Majesty King Husayn's efforts at the pan-Arab and international levels to halt the Israeli aggression on Lebanon and urged the government to openly condemn the attacks.

In a statement issued following a special session held at the Hall of Portraits under the chairmanship of Shaykh 'Abd al-Baqi Jammu, the House's acting speaker, the deputies declared Jordan's absolute solidarity with the Lebanese people and their strong condemnation of the Israeli aggression, which "exposes the real face of Israel."

The statement said:

"The Lower House of Parliament follows with deep concern the ongoing Israeli aggression on Lebanon which has lasted for seven days, targeting children and women and causing the displacement of innocent civilians and the destruction of the Lebanese economy and infrastructure. It declares its total solidarity with the Lebanese people and condemns the brutal Israeli attacks, which aim at imposing the Israeli will on the people of this whole region.

"The Lower House of Parliament in Jordan reasserts that South Lebanon is an Arab land and that Israel's occupation of that land contravenes international resolutions. It also reaffirms that the Lebanese resistance does not represent any form of terrorism but is exercising a legitimate right guaranteed by the international covenants.

"This flagrant aggression exposes to the world the true face of the Jewish state, which does not want to have a genuine peace with the Arab countries. Israel's acceptance of the idea of peace is nothing but a tactical move to spread its influence and consolidate its economic and political hegemony on the whole Arab region under the pretext of ensuring 'Israel's security.'

"We call on the Arab countries to implement the Joint Arab Defence Pact and abort the policy of alliance which Israel has started to form in this region and which poses a threat to the whole Arab Nation.

"The Israeli attack on Lebanon was only possible in the absence of true solidarity among Arab states and lack of coordination among Arab governments. We appeal to the Arab countries to transcend their petty differences and restore solidarity among themselves to enable the nation to find solutions for its chronic problems.

"The Lower House of Parliament, while praising King Husayn's efforts to end the aggression on Lebanon, demands that the government openly condemn Israel's aggression on Lebanon and coordinate policies with the Lebanese Government in the course of securing a collective Arab stand and guaranteeing the implementation of U.N. resolutions that call for Israel's unconditional and total withdrawal from Lebanese territories.

"The House asks the government to suspend the Jordan-Israel peace treaty if Israel pursues its war on Lebanon."

Jordan: Deputies Call For 'Annulment' of Peace Treaty With Israel

JN1804123996 Amman THE STAR in English 18-24 Apr 96 pp 1, 2

[Report by Hamdan al-Haj; "Special to THE STAR"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Eleven deputies, mostly members of the IAF [Islamic Action Front], called Wednesday [17 April] for the annulment of the Jordanian-Israeli Peace Treaty Law to protest the latest Israeli aggression on Lebanon. The deputies, nine from the IAF and two independents, were among other deputies, including ministers who met informally under the chairmanship of Deputy Speaker Shaykh 'Abd al-Baqi Jamu.

In a signed petition, the 11 deputies said the peace treaty contradicts the provisions of the joint Arab Defense Treaty. They added that the treaty did not bring material benefits and that the economic situation in the country was worsening. They criticized the Likud and Labor parties for their insistence on declaring Jerusalem as Israel's unified capital and pointed out that Israel has refused to dismantle its nuclear arsenal.

Those signing the petition included Hamam Sa'id, Dhib Anis, Bassam Umush, 'Abd al-Aziz Jabr, Tujan Faisal and Talal 'Ubaydat. They called on the government to freeze the peace treaty, expel Israel's ambassador in Amman and recall the Jordanian ambassador in Tel Aviv. They also demanded that the government stop all dealings with Israel.

The deputies described what is going on in Lebanon as a war of annihilation and said Israel aims at blackmailing Syria and other countries with a view to forcing on them the type of settlement which satisfies Israel and the U.S. A number of deputies criticized this week's Prime Minister 'Abd al-Karim al-Kabariti's visit to Jerusalem where he met with Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres.

Meanwhile participants in the meeting issued a statement condemning Israel's aggression on Lebanon and calling on the international community to carry out its responsibilities to stop the raids which threatened the peace process.

Jordan: Opposition Parties Form Committee in Support of Lebanon

JN1804125996 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 18 Apr 96 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman—The Jordanian opposition parties formed a Jordanian national committee for supporting the fraternal Lebanese people and backing them against the Israeli aggression.

At a news conference held at the Islamic Action Front's headquarters yesterday, the opposition parties issued a statement saying that the current war against Lebanon has resulted so far in displacing about half a million Palestinian citizens, including the inhabitants of all the Palestinian refugee camps in southern Lebanon who number about 200,000. The statement noted that this war is fully backed by the United States, that it is the result of the Sharm al-Shaykh conference and the slogan of fighting so-called terrorism, and that it is part of efforts to back the Labor Party in the upcoming Israeli elections.

The statement said that "the Zionists are exploiting this war" to destroy the infrastructure that the Lebanese people have built and to wipe out the Lebanese armed resistance.

The statement reviewed the opposition's stand on the peace process in the region, the normalization process, the government's political and economic performance, and public freedoms.

The statement was signed by the Jordanian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, the Constitutional Jordanian Arab Front Party, the Progressive Arab Ba'th Party, the Jordanian People's Democratic Party, the Islamic Action Front, the Jordanian Communist Party, the Pan-Arab Action Front Party, the Popular Unity Party, and the Pan-Arab Action Party.

Jordan: Al-Kabariti Phones Lebanon's Buwayz, Meets Foreign Envoys

JN1804121896 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1100 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti, prime minister and foreign minister, phoned Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz today as part of the Jordanian efforts to stop the deteriorating situation on the Lebanese-Israeli borders. They reviewed the latest developments in Lebanon. Al-Kabariti stressed to Buwayz the serious results of the continued Israeli raids on Lebanon which threaten the peace process in the region. Al-Kabariti also voiced Jordan's grave concern over the tension and the escalating military actions. He emphasized Jordan's support for any international move to stop the military actions. He also stressed Jordan's sympathy with the Lebanese people's suffering.

Al-Kabariti separately met with the French and Lebanese ambassadors and the U.S. charge d'affaires in his office at the Prime Ministry today. They discussed the recent developments of the Israeli military actions on the Lebanese front. The prime minister stressed the need for the international community to work to stop the Israeli military actions against Lebanese territory. He pointed out that the continuation of these actions will threaten the whole peace process and return the region to tension, conflict, and instability. Al-Kabariti expressed hope that current international efforts will stop these operations which have caused numerous casualties and rendered homeless thousands of Lebanese civilians.

Jordan: Paper—U.S.-Backed Plan Aims 'To Explode the Domestic Front'

JN1704172096 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 15 Apr 96 p 1

[FBIS Translated Text] The past few days have seen the uncovering of an Egyptian-Palestinian-Israeli plan sponsored by Washington to explode the domestic front in Jordan. These parties are putting immense pressure on the Jordanian Government to make it strike at the Islamic movement and engage it in a spiral of hot pursuits or bloody confrontations, as is happening in Egypt, Israel, and Algeria.

It was no coincidence that the Egyptian, Israeli, and 'Arafatist media campaigns were launched against Jordan at the same time. Jordan was charged with sheltering leaders of the Palestinian Hamas Movement and the Egyptian Repudiation and Renunciation Organization. These campaigns and charges were deliberately, carefully, and purposely unleashed with a view to exporting the crises suffered by the self-rule authority and the Egyptian regime to Jordan. As for the calculations of Shim'on Peres and his party, they stipulate that he has to win the next Knesset elections, even if this is at the expense of Jordan's interests, security, and stability.

The "security war" being waged against Jordan by Mubarak, 'Arafat, and Peres nowadays is no different, in terms of purposes and goals, from the military campaign Israel is waging against Lebanon with full U.S. support with a view to making its government strike at Hizballah and reviving internecine fighting and civil strife there.

The paradox here lies in the fact that the Lebanese Government has refused to be drawn into a clash with Hizballah, whereas the Jordanian Government and its security agencies have succumbed to external pressure. They are making continuous and escalating arrests among Jordanian Islamic activists on charges of sympathy with Hamas [the Islamic Resistance Movement]. It should be recalled that the security agencies have arrested several persons on charges of belonging to Hamas over the past three weeks.

The arrest campaigns reached a peak last week when a security group stormed the Express Computer Company in the al-'Abdali area in Amman and arrested its director Iyad Hilmi Sadaqah and all those who happened to be at the company at the time. The company was sealed with red tape after all computers were confiscated. This brings back to mind the Egyptian security authorities' storming of the Salsabil Computer Company in Cairo two years ago.

It might not be a coincidence that the storming of the Express Company in al-'Abdali took place when six deputies of the Islamic Action Front [IAF] were meeting with Major General Samih al-Battikhi, director of General Intelligence, with a view to defusing tension and finding an appropriate way out of the crisis between Jordan and the Hamas Movement in particular and Jordan and the IAF in general created by the Sharm al-Shaykh conference and the instigations of both Peres and 'Arafat.

Parliamentary sources informed AL-MAJD that the six deputies, 'Abdallah al-'Akayilah, 'Abd-al-Rahim al-'Ukur, Bassam al-'Umush, Hamzah Mansur, Ibrahim al-Kilani, and Muhammad 'Uwaydah, met with Maj. Gen. al-Battikhi and other directors and ministers at the request of the prime minister, who urged them to communicate and meet with officials of state institutions. The prime minister also demonstrated his willingness to cooperate with them and to heed their remarks and criticisms.

Nonetheless, the warm political discourse of the prime minister was completely different from the coarse security discourse of the General Intelligence director, who asserted to them that the arrest campaign against Hamas activists and Islamist sympathizers will continue. Al-Battikhi stated that even Khalid Mash'al, the most senior Hamas leader at present, could be arrested.

AL-MAJD will refrain from publishing details of the conversation that took place between the six deputies and the General Intelligence director to spare those concerned any embarrassment. The persons arrested last week were the following: Iyad Sadaqah, Tahir Lafi, Mansur al-Farrukh, Majdi al-Farrukh, Rajab Saqr, 'Ali al-Jalakh, Walid Taylakh, Khalid Abu-Ghazalah, Faysal al-Ra'i, Husayn 'Awdah, Badi Rafayi'ah, Murad al-'Adayilah, and Shihdah Dhib. More arrests could follow.

Jordan: Daily Assails U.S. Block of UNSC Meeting on Lebanon

JN1704130196 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 Apr 96 p 17

[Editorial: "Protecting Peace"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The U.S. decision to block an urgent meeting of the U.N. Security Council over the Israeli aggression on Lebanon has deprived the international community of a valuable opportunity to put an immediate end to the unjustified campaign of terror that Israel is inflicting on Lebanon and its people. The first consequence of the delayed consideration of the Israeli war on Lebanon was the further escalation of the attack to reach the far reaches of Lebanon and the suburbs of Beirut itself.

Israel's so-called "Operation Grapes of Wrath" has already claimed the lives of 30 Lebanese, mostly civilians, and injured well over 140. The expansion of Israel's war against Hizballah has thus turned into an all-out war against Lebanon. Unless stopped immediately, this war threatens to jeopardise the whole peace process.

Jordan sees this as a dangerous situation which must be contained immediately.

His Majesty King Husayn Monday [15 April] summoned the ambassadors of major powers, including the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and the "troika" of the European Union, to sound the alarm about the rapid deterioration on the Lebanese front and the dire effect this is having on the peace process. Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti went to Israel Tuesday to deliver an urgent message from the King to Peres and discuss the ramifications of the alarming situation with his Israeli counterpart. That reflects the sense of urgency and concern with which Jordan views the cycle of violence which is starting again in the area.

But as the concerned parties continue their search for an effective halt to the Israeli incursion in Lebanon, Israel bears direct responsibility for restoring normalcy to Lebanon. The extent to which Israeli armed forces have gone so far to prosecute their military efforts against Lebanon is clearly disproportionate to Hizballah's Katyusha rockets, which Israel claims are the reason behind its aggression on Lebanon. But this claim lacks even the resemblance of credibility. The war Israel is launching on Lebanon is disproportionate to the attacks which Hizballah is launching on Israel. The Israeli Government and its leader have started the war on Lebanon to impose their own solution to the conflict with that country and to seek support for their reelection bid. The Security Council must meet and demand an immediate halt to the Israeli attack.

The Council must not maintain a hands-off policy when there is a clear threat to security and stability in the region. It is bad enough that the Council has not been able to convene an urgent meeting until this late hour. Delaying an international action any further and until Israel attains its full military and political objectives cannot be the right way to find a comprehensive solution to the crisis. Now is the time to exercise international jurisdiction over Israel, protect Lebanon, its people and the whole peace process.

Jordan: Palestinian Official's Visit Reportedly Fails To Improve Ties

JN1704192396 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 14 Apr 96 pp 1, 30

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-ITTIHAD—The visit to the Jordanian capital last week by envoy of the Palestinian leadership Mahmud 'Abbas failed to bridge the gap that began to widen between the two parties following charges made by Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Palestinian National Authority, that Jordan is providing shelter to Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement].

Jordanian sources said Jordan received information and documents showing that the Palestinian president began launching a campaign behind the scenes accusing Jordan of opening additional lines with the Israeli Likud to ensure a role for it in case the Likud wins in the elections due to be held next May.

The sources add that 'Arafat was quoted as saying: Jordan has not abandoned its ambitions to annex the West Bank, and any attempt to destabilize the Palestinian Authority will leave the door open for Jordan to enter the West Bank.

Palestinian officials believe that the Jordanian coordination with the Israeli Likud came following the latter's announcement of its determination not to accept a buffer state between Israel and Jordan. After Jordan heard that remark, it began consultations and open and secret contacts to implement this program through a mechanism represented by creating problems for the Palestinian leadership and convincing the Palestinian society that the way out of the crisis is a Jordanian one.

These officials link this coordination with the provision of permanent passports in large numbers to Palestinians in Jordan, especially Palestinians from Beer Sheba and Gaza who live in Jordan.

According to the Jordanian sources, the meeting between Mahmud 'Abbas and Jordanian Prime Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti reviewed the Palestinian leadership's policies and the difficult conditions of the Palestinian people. He also offered a covert apology for President 'Arafat's statements.

According to informed sources, the meeting was intense, and al-Kabariti asked for the secret documents President 'Arafat has in his possession concerning Hamas' plans to launch a war against the authority in support of Jordan and about the coordination and consultations that took place to implement these plans.

According to statements made by the Jordanian leadership and Government, Jordan emphasized that it does not have any ambitions in the West Bank and that it supports the Palestinian leadership and its legitimacy. Jordan says that the statements by Hamas leaders in Jordan do not represent Jordan and that these leaders are Jordanian citizens who have the right to express their political views without coordination with external parties and without receiving supplies and equipment from these parties.

In a preemptive step and in an attempt to ease the pressure on Jordan, the departure of Muhammad Nazzal, Hamas representative in Jordan, and Ibrahim Ghawshah, Hamas spokesman in Jordan, for Damascus came in response to a Jordanian Government demand.

Lebanon: AFP Carries Report on 8-Point French Peace Plan

NC1804105096 Paris AFP in English 1719 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Cairo, April 17 (AFP) — France has drawn up an eight-point ceasefire plan for Lebanon, sources close to French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette disclosed here Wednesday [17 April].

1 — The verbal commitments undertaken in 1993 will be formalized under a written arrangement.

2 — The Israeli government will abstain from action that could affect Lebanon's civilian population and their right to live in their normal places of residence.

3 — The Lebanese government will take all measures to assure the security of Israel's civilian population and to avoid action against them from its territory.

4 — Hizballah and other movements in south Lebanon are banned from using offensive weapons against Israeli territory.

5 — The commitments will be subject to guarantee by third countries (the United States, France and other countries, notably European).

6 — These third countries will be approved by the other concerned countries in the region, notably Syria.

7 — A security committee made up of representatives of the guarantor countries, Israel and Lebanon, will be in charge of making sure the arrangement is implemented. It will be open to complaints from the parties. During examination of a complaint, the party concerned would refrain from reprisal.

8 — The emergency plan is designed to confront the situation of the current crisis. It does not prejudice a final settlement within the framework of the peace process.

De Charette has put the plan to Israel, Lebanon and Syria. While Lebanon has pointed to "lots of positive points" in the French proposals, the United States has worked closely with Israel to draw up its own peace plan.

Like the US plan, the French proposals are based on a tacit agreement in July 1993 under which Israel and Hizballah guerrillas agreed to halt operations against civilians.

The US version calls for Syria, as the major power-broker in Lebanon with 35,000 troops, to guarantee a halt to Hizballah attacks not only on Israel but also an Israeli-occupied border strip in south Lebanon.

France is also proposing a possible deployment of an international force, to act on the ground as the guarantors, unlike the US plan.

Lebanon: Beirut Radio Cites AFP Report on French Cease-Fire Plan

NC1704190696 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1814 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Citing sources close to French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette, AFP has just reported that the French cease-fire proposal involves eight points. The most prominent points are:

— the pledges made orally in 1993 will be made official, and written;

— the Israeli Government will desist from any action that harms the security of civilians and their right to live in their usual residences;

— a security committee that will include representatives of the guarantor countries, Israel, and Lebanon will be formed. It will have the job of overseeing the implementation of the arrangements and will meet as soon as any party lodges a complaint. Any and all acts of revenge will be put on ice during discussion of the complaint.

The French foreign minister's sources added that the urgent French proposal aims to tackle the current crisis and does not replace a final solution, which falls within the framework of the peace process.

Lebanon: Al-Hariri Declines U.S. Offer in 'Current Form'

MM1704132796 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 17 Apr 96 pp 1, 6

[Interview with Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri by Sulayman Nimr in Jeddah; date not given—first four paragraphs are AL-HAYAH introduction]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Lebanese prime minister told AL-HAYAH in Jeddah yesterday that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has made important contacts to help Lebanon. He praised the role being played by Saudi Arabia, under King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, to halt the aggression against Lebanon. He pointed to the international status of King Fahd, Crown Prince 'Abdallah, and Prince Sultan Bin-Abd-al-'Aziz.

The Lebanese prime minister said that earlier yesterday he received a message from the U.S. Administration containing "an offer to settle the situation in Lebanon."

Yesterday morning Prime Minister al-Hariri received in his residence in Jeddah U.S. Consul Charles Daris, who handed him the American message following a telephone conversation with Robert Pelletreau, U.S. assistant secretary of state for Middle East affairs.

Prime Minister al-Hariri said: "We received this morning a U.S. initiative or offer to settle the situation, and the Lebanese Government's initial reaction is that it is difficult for Lebanon to accept this initiative as it is."

[Nimr] What are the details of this initiative?

[Al-Hariri] I can only say that it is an initiative for settling the situation, and our initial reaction is that it cannot be accepted in its current form. However, it can be developed. We will study the initiative when the Lebanese Government meets under President al-Hirawi on my return to Beirut.

[Nimr] What is Lebanon's position on the Security Council's — nonbinding — resolution or appeal for Israel to halt military operations in Lebanon?

[Al-Hariri] That is not sufficient. We had hoped that the Security Council would fairly examine the things to which Lebanon is subjected and condemn Israel's attacks on the Lebanese people and the Lebanese state. We will continue our contacts to secure international condemnation of the Israeli attacks. We will also demand compensation for all the damage and losses inflicted on Lebanon by Israel.

It is clear that what Israel is doing is aggression designed to destroy Lebanon and kill children and women and make them homeless. It has nothing to do with fighting Hizballah. That party has not been affected. On the contrary, support for it has increased since the aggressive Israeli military operations. And its attacks on north Israel have not stopped; and we stress once again that matters cannot be resolved through military means but rather, through a peaceful solution based on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 425 calling for Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon. We are making contacts with all world states to secure a resolution for a cease-fire first.

[Nimr] Israel said that it is discussing an offer stipulating its willingness to withdraw from the Jazzin area within nine months in return for assurances from Syria and Lebanon that they would guarantee Israel's security and halt Hizballah's operations.

[Al-Hariri] We have not received any such offers. Israel is promoting such talk as media trial balloons. Israel is making a proposal every hour: one time they say a withdrawal within three months and another time they say within six months. It is now talking about a withdrawal within nine months. Israel's aim is to circumvent Security Council Resolution 425, which stipulates unconditional withdrawal from southern Lebanon and says that security in the south is the responsibility of the Lebanese state with its Army and security forces. Israel is talking about disarming Hizballah then looking into withdrawal. All this is an attempt to beat about the bush to avert the implementation of Resolution 425. They say that they want security, and I say and pledge in the Lebanese Government's name that we are willing to guarantee security in the south if Israel withdraws.

We held 11 rounds of negotiations with Israel in Washington under U.S. auspices to implement Security Council Resolution 426 [as published], on the basis of which we participated in the Madrid conference. But until this moment the Israelis still have not come up with a solution.

[Nimr] Do you believe that the July 1993 understanding or accord has collapsed or will collapse as a result of what is happening now?

[Al-Hariri] We cannot say that the July understanding has collapsed. The July understanding has been violated by Israel, and sometimes by Hizballah. The important thing now is a cease-fire and a return to the July understanding, not recourse to Israeli military operations against civilians; then we should move on to implement Resolution 425.

[Nimr] After your contacts and tour, do you expect Israel to halt its military operations and aggression against Lebanon soon?

[Al-Hariri] Israel has the answer to the question. We want an immediate halt to the aggression. This is why we and other fraternal and friendly states are making moves.

[Nimr] We have noticed that Israel is hitting Lebanon's infrastructure, destroying houses, and making people homeless. If the aggression is halted, who is going to pay for the losses inflicted on the Lebanese people?

[Al-Hariri] Today (yesterday) I asked the [Lebanese] finance minister and the chairman of the Development and Reconstruction Council to prepare a report on the losses we have suffered as a state and citizens in order to demand that Israel compensate us for the direct and indirect losses it has inflicted on Lebanon. We hope that no one will take this matter lightly. We know our rights, and the Lebanese state will pursue this matter in all international forums.

[Nimr] What are the results of the talks you held today (yesterday) with the Saudi crown prince and His Highness Prince Sultan-Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz?

[Al-Hariri] We have consulted with the Saudi brothers, with whom — as is known — we are bound by very strong ties of friendship in the light of the profound respect that Lebanon and its people feel for Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the crown prince, and the second deputy [prime minister]. The consultations were over current developments in Lebanon. We briefed them on what is happening, and I encountered from the crown prince and the second deputy every support and backing for Lebanon's position. I discovered that the Kingdom has already played its role in making contacts and contributing to the efforts aimed at halting Israeli military operations against Lebanon. I would like to point out here that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has an important and strong role in this connection due to the standing and influence it enjoys. The custodian of the two holy mosques has never hesitated to help Lebanon in any circumstances or predicaments.

[Nimr] What is your opinion of the U.S. position on what is happening?

[Al-Hariri] We had hoped that the U.S. position would be more positive toward Lebanon. That is enough for me to say.

[Nimr] And what is your opinion of the British position, especially after the statements made by British Defense Secretary Michael Portillo, which are said to be the cause of the postponement of your visit to London?

[Al-Hariri] Without doubt we do not agree with the statements made by the British defense secretary. We are surprised, because, as is known, Britain's stands are supportive of Lebanon and Resolution 425. This British position, which surprises us, will not cause me to cancel my visit to London. The visit had to be postponed due to my engagements in Beirut, and there is a big possibility that I might visit London within 48 hours.

[Nimr] Do you believe that the French foreign minister's tour of the region will succeed in halting Israeli attacks on Lebanon?

[Al-Hariri] France is making laudable efforts to halt Israeli military operations. France's position is clear, strong, and supports Lebanon. President Jacques Chirac urged an immediate cease-fire and the implementation of Resolution 425. The efforts in the short term are focused on securing a cease-fire based on the July 1993 understanding or accord, if that is going to secure a cease-fire. Then work would begin on implementing Resolution 425.

Lebanon: Speaker Birri Said Not To Approve U.S. Initiative

NC1704155396 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1415 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] A parliamentary source has quoted Speaker Nabih Birri as saying he does not approve of several provisions of the U.S. initiative, which appears to cancel UN Security Council resolution 425.

Lebanon: Ministerial Meeting Discusses Cease-Fire Initiatives

NC1704170896 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1622 GMT 17 Apr 96

[Report by correspondent Ahmad 'Izz-al-Din from the Republican Palace in B'abda—live or recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A ministerial meeting chaired by President Ilyas al-Hirawi and attended by 24 ministers has just ended. No statement or resolutions were issued after the meeting. However, Information Minister Farid Makari pointed out to reporters that the president put the ministers in the picture concerning the proposed French and American initiatives and the Lebanese reservations about these initiatives, particularly the American initiative.

President al-Hirawi stated that the Lebanese reservations are due to Lebanon's insistence on Resolution 425, though there is accord on certain points. However, as far as Resolution 425 is concerned, the U.S. initiative, in Lebanon's view, is aimed at circumventing and modifying Resolution 425.

President al-Hirawi praised the efforts being made by the prime minister and the foreign minister, pointing out that the prime minister's tour is helping consolidate Lebanon's role. Moreover, it prompts and urges friends to back Lebanon's position politically and economically. It also helps rectify the British position, he remarked. [passage omitted]

The information minister noted that the Council of Ministers might hold an extraordinary session after the prime minister's and the foreign minister's expected return to Beirut tomorrow.

We would like to note that the prime minister and Foreign Minister Buwayz will both head for the Syrian capital tomorrow.

Moreover, the information minister said that he had raised with the president the issue of allowing satellite transmissions on a temporary basis. He said that this issue will be discussed by the Cabinet tomorrow. He said that the president welcomed the idea in order to help Lebanon's voice reach the world at this time and to expose the barbaric Israeli aggression against our citizens. [passage omitted]

Lebanon: Radio Cites U.S. Request to Hizballah To Stop Katyushas

NC1804055496 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0538 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Just in from the news desk: AFP reported a short while ago that the United States today asked Hizballah to stop firing katyusha rockets at northern Israel immediately. The State Department spokesman said that if Hizballah responds, Israel might halt its military operations in Lebanon.

Lebanon: Israeli Army To Resume Action in al-Nabatiyah Area 'Soon'

NC1704122996 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1216 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In line with communique no. 5, the Israeli army will resume its operations in the al-Nabatiyah area soon. The Voice of the South hopes the population of al-Nabatiyah and its surroundings will not listen to Lebanese television or radios so that they might not endanger their lives.

Lebanon: Israeli Army To Resume Operations 1300 GMT

NC1704120996 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1155 GMT 17 Apr 96

["Communique No. 6 for Today"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli army has halted its operations in the areas of Dayr Qanun al-Nahr, Ma'rub, al-'Abbasiyah, and Ma'rakah and will resume them at 1600 [1300 GMT]. All citizens in these villages and their surrounding areas must leave immediately and head north. The Israeli army reiterates its warning to these citizens not to remain in their villages or in the area; that way they will not expose themselves to danger. He who forewarns is excused.

Lebanon: Israeli Army To Continue Operations During Night

NC1704170196 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1644 GMT 17 Apr 96

["Communique No. 7 for Today"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli army announces that tonight it will continue its operations against the terrorists who are firing katyusha rockets. Therefore, travelling southward is banned, though travelling northward is still permissible. Any vehicle travelling toward the south will be under suspicion of belonging to the terrorists and will be at risk. He who forewarns is excused.

Lebanon: Army Command Describes Attack on al-Nabatiyah as 'Massacre'

NC1804100096 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0910 GMT 18 Apr 96

[Communique issued by the Guidance Directorate of the Lebanese Army Command on 18 April—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] For the eighth day running civilians continue to be targets of Israeli raids and bombardments in most villages of the western and central sectors.

The Israeli enemy committed a massacre in al-Nabatiyah al-Fawqa when Israeli warplanes attacked a three story-building. The building was destroyed and 11 citizens were killed and 10 wounded. The martyrs include four children, one of them four-days old. Lebanese Army units in the area are still working to remove the debris in the search for more victims. The area was bombarded more than once during the rescue operations.

Lebanon: Pro-Israeli Radio Denies Naval Shelling of Villages

NC1704122396 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1157 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] At 1330 today Radio Lebanon announced that the villages of Dayr Qanun al-Nahr, Ma'rub, and al-'Abbasiyah have been coming under fierce bombardment from Israeli warships cruising off the Tyre coast.

Our military correspondent, after verifying that the Radio Lebanon announcement was false and ascertaining that the Israeli navy did not bombard the area today, can confirm that the objective of this desperate and miserable attempt to refute the communiques issued by the Voice of the South is to keep the inhabitants of the southern villages hostage of Hizballah, subject them to certain death, and shake their confidence in the Voice of the South's announcements, which have their interests at heart and aim to protect them. Stay tuned to the Voice of the South to protect yourselves.

Lebanon: Israeli Security Sources React to al-Maqdah Threat

NC1704123096 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 1205 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Responsible Israeli security sources have commented on a statement by Munir al-Maqdah to BBC correspondent Ahmad Mustafa yesterday that al-Maqdah and his men will bombard north Israel. These sources said the population of Sidon should learn a lesson from what happened in Tyre and al-Nabatiyah. They added that the presence of saboteurs, Hizballah members, and Munir al-Maqdah's followers among them and their determination to carry out terrorist operations and to use the population as a human shield will expose their security and safety to great danger. The security equation that applies to you is this: No one in Lebanon is immune to the Israeli army's reaction. If there is no quiet in north Israel there will be none in Sidon.

Lebanon: AFP—Hizballah Staying Intact Despite Israeli Onslaught

NC1704134496 Paris AFP in English 1326 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Beirut, April 17 (AFP) — The Iranian-backed Hizballah has retained its military and political structure despite Israel's seven-day blitz on the guerrilla group's strongholds in Lebanon.

The Shiite Moslem group on Wednesday [17 April] unleashed a new barrage of Katyusha rockets at north Israel, causing considerable damage and one injury, while Israeli planes bombed south Lebanon.

In the Shiite southern suburbs of Beirut, home to Hizballah's political, medical and social services, the movement is still active after a series of helicopter attacks on its buildings and the homes of Hizballah leaders.

Bearded Hizballah members criss-cross the streets of the suburbs on motorcycles searching for informers who could be giving the Israelis the target locations.

"We know there are Israeli agents, we have taken precautions," said a Hizballah official who requested anonymity.

"We have evacuated the buildings, except for those used by our information services. I don't think the Israelis will hit that because they know it's full of Western journalists."

Similar security measures have been taken in the Syrian-controlled al-Biqa' Valley of eastern Lebanon, which has also been heavily targetted by the Israelis.

The al-Biqa' is home to senior Hizballah officials, who no longer sleep in their houses or move in their cars, knowing they are being eyed by Israeli surveillance aircraft.

"Israel is militarily superior to us, that is why we have adopted guerrilla practices. Our military structures are hidden to protect us from aerial detection," the official said.

"The Israeli campaign is a total failure. Except for one of our fighters, all the people killed have been civilians," apart from two Lebanese soldiers and a Syrian soldier, said the official. Hizballah has so far given no figure for fighters wounded.

Asked how the group was maintaining its military supply lines despite surveillance since Israel controls the skies, the official said Hizballah "counts on the experience of 10 years" of clandestine warfare against Israel. Journalists have seen fighters of Hizballah, which spearheads attacks against Israel's occupation of a self-declared "security zone" in south Lebanon, on the move without apparent difficulty.

Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', whose country also supports the group, said Wednesday that "all of Israel's attacks have been unable to affect Hizballah's strength."

"Our men have wiped out the word fear from their vocabulary," the Hizballah official said, citing as an example the creation of an 80-member suicide commando batallion outfitted in belts and vests filled with plastic explosives.

The group, which has 500 hardened fighters and thousands of reserves, "can still infiltrate to the border and strike, despite the Israeli mobilization," he said.

Hizballah also keeps up the morale of its fighters by using its radio and television stations, still transmitting despite Israeli attacks on their antennas, along with its weekly newspaper AL-'AHD (The Promise).

Lebanon: Al-Hariri Says 'We Can Control' Hizballah

MS1804074496 London Channel 4 Television Network in English 1800 GMT 17 Apr 96

["Exclusive" interview with Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri by presenter Jon Snow at the Lebanese Embassy in London on 17 April; from the "Channel Four" newscast — recorded]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Snow] Earlier I spoke to the Lebanese prime minister Rafiq al-Hariri at his country's embassy in London. He'd been here for talks with the

Prime Minister John Major. I asked him why he'd not taken tougher action against Hizballah as Israeli had demanded?

[Al-Hariri] There is nothing incumbent, in fact between me and Hizballah. But Hizballah present the resistance to the occupation. Israeli is asking me, in a way, to be a traitor which I am not going to be. I said very clearly and very openly and very honestly, if you consider Hizballah as a problem, or anybody else consider Hizballah as a problem, the way to solve this problem is not the way Israel is following. So solving this problem is not by force.

[Snow] Right, now do either of the peace plans — the American or the French — offer any sort of opportunity for a new direction?

[Al-Hariri] You see the Americans have presented to us a proposal yesterday, I received it yesterday morning when I was in Jeddah, and last night, at midnight, I received the French proposal, I'm studying both, and the government also, the president is studying them. Both of them they have positive points, and they have points we cannot agree. So we want to go further in discussion with both, and we are welcoming the French initiative. We think that the French, really they are very serious to find a solution.

[Snow] Why do you think the French are taking such a positive role in all this?

[Al-Hariri] You know, first of all, we have very strong relations with the French. Second, the European in general, they understand the situation more than anybody else. And, you know, the public opinion in France, and in Europe, see that what is happening of killing civilians and destroying the country and destroying the infrastructure of the country, is not normal in the 21st century and especially we are all of us seeking for a peace.

[Snow] So this plan — the French plan — which basically is that of writing down the verbal agreements of 1993, that would be a key way forward?

[Al-Hariri] You see here I want to make it clear that 1993 agreement — it was a temporary one. To stop the fighting. It is not a final one and it should not be now a final one. If we agree now any sort of agreement, which we will do....

[Snow] ...it's a stepping stone?

[Al-Hariri] ...it's a stepping stone toward a permanent one.

[Snow] But how finally do you control Hizballah?

[Al-Hariri] No problem. Even with the [425] we will control Hizballah. Why, you know, we are stronger than Hizballah. The Lebanese Government and the Lebanese Army is stronger than Hizballah. They know very well that we can control them.

[Snow] But you never have done?

[Al-Hariri] No we won't. We will not do that, as far as Israel is occupying part of our country. Because in this case what we are doing, politically, we are helping the occupier to have an easy life. All this operation, what it has achieved? It destroy our villages, displaced our people, destroy our power stations, put our economic future in jeopardy, they jeopardize our future, and they kill civilians and they left Hizballah intact.

Lebanon: Islamic Resistance Claims To Infiltrate North Israel

NC1704161796 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1601 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Resistance has just announced that one of its groups succeeded in infiltrating to an area beyond the occupied border strip, where it fired a salvo of Katyusha rockets at the settlement of Safad, 20 km from the Lebanese border with occupied Palestine.

Lebanon: Qallawayh Raided; Citizens Leave on Foot With UNIFIL Help

NC1704124996 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1233 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Israeli warplanes have raided the town of Qallawayh's main square near the mosque. The Finnish contingent of the UN Interim Force in Lebanon [UNIFIL] is trying to evacuate citizens who have not left the town and who are sheltering behind the UNIFIL vehicles while leaving the town on foot. Smoke was seen rising from the home of Abu-Sari 'Alayyan.

Lebanon: Israeli Aircraft, Warships Bombard Southern Towns

NC1704145796 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1444 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] At 1740 [1440 GMT] today, Israeli military aircraft raided the town of al-'Abbasiyah. In addition, Israeli warships bombarded the outskirts of the town. The bombardment reached the western approach to the town of Tura and the valleys between Ma'rakah and Tura.

Lebanon: SLA Radio Advises Evacuees To Move Northward Only

NC1804091796 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0900 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] From Voice of the South we repeat and warn that the Israeli army advises the evacuees from southern villages and towns to move northward only. Every car or other means of transportation and every person moving southward should do this at their own risk and may subject themselves to the danger of death. He who is forewarned is forearmed.

Lebanon: Citizens Warned To Keep Away From Hizballah Locations

NC1804095996 Kafr Killa Voice of the South in Arabic 0934 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] From the [Kafr Killa] Voice of the South we repeat and warn that the Israeli army advises all listeners in the townships and villages where Hizballah members are present to keep away from the houses, offices, centers, and stores that are linked with this terrorist militia so as to save their lives.

Keeping away from evil will save your life. This is the key to safety.

Syria: Vice President Discusses Lebanon, Peace Process

JN1704175496 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1520 GMT 17 Apr 96

[Speech by Dr. Muhammad Zuhayr Mashariqah, Syrian vice president and vice chairman of the National Progressive Front, at the Damascus University Auditorium on the 50th anniversary of Evacuation Day—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Comrades, brother citizens: The Arab nation is proud of its creative and innovative contributions throughout its long history to the human civilization both materially and morally. It is also proud of its past with its rich cultural heritage, which was the best asset to humanity in medieval times and its best support at the beginning of the modern age. Likewise, the Arab nation is proud of its heroic deeds, glories, and memorable days in which it supported justice and defeated injustice. [passage omitted]

Evacuation Day, whose 50th anniversary we are celebrating today is one of those days. It is a memorable day in the history of Syria and the Arab region. On that day, the people's struggle was crowned with laurels. After a quarter-a-century-long struggle, the masses of our people managed to score a clear victory on 17 April 1946, through which the country gained its freedom and obtained its independence and the people became the sovereign authority in their homeland and the party having the final say in all their affairs. [passage omitted]

Regarding the liberation struggle, Syria has made the Palestine question its central issue. It dedicated all its potential and resources in the interest of this issue. It worked to rally all Arab potential and resources to defend the Arab nation and its interests and face up to the dangers surrounding it. Undoubtedly, the achievements that have been scored under the glorious Corrective Movement [applause] have reinforced Syria pan-Arab role and enabled it to offer greater sacrifices in defense of our pan-Arab causes. Building a solid economic basis, organizing the state institutions, and building defensive capabilities to protect the country's security and maintain its independence were among the most important achievements which enabled Syria to maintain, defend, and safeguard the Arab issue. Those achievements also enabled Syria to hold fast in the face of the hostile Zionist scheme and to face up to all its challenges. Those achievements will also enable Syria to maintain its steadfastness until the comprehensive liberation of all the occupied Arab territories, restoration of the usurped pan-Arab rights, and the establishment of a just, comprehensive peace based on international legitimacy and the UN Security Council resolutions.

Comrades, brother citizens: Syria has repeatedly asserted that peace is a strategic option for it. The peace that it wants is just and comprehensive peace based on international legitimacy and UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425. This peace must lead to Israel's withdrawal from the Golan to the 4 June 1967 lines, from southern Lebanon, and from the rest of the occupied Arab territories. Consequently, this peace will restore the usurped rights, return to everybody their lawful rights, and provide security and stability for everybody in the region.

When Syria agreed to participate in the peace process, this was based on the Madrid formula and the land-for-peace principle and in line with its principled constants. There shall be no relinquishment of any right and no bargaining over a grain of soil. Five years have passed since the peace process was launched. Despite this, this process has not achieved any noteworthy progress. In fact, we can say that this process is now in a deep sleep. This is due to Israel and its maneuvers, its lack of seriousness, and lack of desire to achieve a peace based on justice and right. Israel also sought to keep the occupied territories, set up more settlements, expand the existing ones, and bring in more immigrant Jews from all over the world to reside there. Every now and then, Israeli leaders say they will not withdraw from all of the Golan and maintain that Jerusalem is Israel's eternal capital. They are working to create a new reality to control the destiny and resources of the Arab region. This is evident in their talk about Middle Easternism and about economic projects for a new Middle East to enable them to control the region's resources and lead the Arabs into a maze. Besides all of this, the Israelis are practicing the ugliest methods of suppression and terrorism in the occupied Arab territories. These methods include arrests, detention, murder, displacement, demolition of homes, and siege from which the citizens are greatly suffering.

Israel launched its brutal, treacherous aggression against Lebanon several days ago. Israeli planes raided many Lebanese regions. Israeli artillery shelled many civilian centers in a barbaric manner. By this aggression, Israel has committed savage massacres and imposed a tight siege on Lebanese ports. The aggression displaced hundreds of thousands of Lebanese citizens who were forced to leave their homes and villages. In addition, many people were killed and others injured and huge material losses were sustained.

This brutal, treacherous aggression on Lebanon caused severe losses and dealt a fatal blow to the peace process and the hopes that were pinned on it. The peace process can be relieved of the deadlock it has reached as a result of Israel's intransigent stands, its arrogance, its hostile practices, and the policy of terrorism it is pursuing only with returning to the Madrid formula and the bases on which the conference was held and adopting its terms of reference as a sound framework to save the peace process.

Syria's call for building a new Arab situation to enable the Arabs to defend their rights and interests, regain their land, and safegard their dignity assumes importance in light of the current international situation, the strange silence over the growing Israeli aggression against the Arab nation, Israel's drive to paralyze the peace process, its barbaric treacherous aggression against Lebanon, its siege on the Palestinian Arab people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and its terrorist practices against the people of the occupied Arab territories.

Syria pursued the path of peace out of its belief that this path will liberate the occupied Arab territories and restore the usurped pan-Arab rights. But after the lapse of approximately five years, Israel still asserts every day through its behavior and actions that the peace it wants is the one that enables it to control the Arab region.

The recent aggression against Lebanon, eviction of hundreds of thousands of Lebanese, destruction of cities and villages, and the shelling of Beirut and other Lebanese cities reveal the nature of peace Israel wants.

Arabs everywhere should view this situation objectively and be aware of Israel's deception in order to reconsider their policies so that they can preserve the rights and interests of their Arab nation, because some of them offered peace to Israel but are offering death, destruction, and eviction to their brothers.

The Arabs should also realize that their interests, security, peace, and ambitions can be safeguarded only through cooperation, solidarity, and unity. [passage omitted]

Syria: Al-Shar', French Counterpart Exchange Ideas

JN1804063296 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' yesterday had a 90-minute meeting with French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette, who is currently in Cairo.

This meeting was followed by a five-party meeting, attended by Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, and Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, in addition to al-Shar' and de Charette.

Following the meeting, Foreign Minister al-Shar' said: During our meeting, which lasted for some 90 minutes, I exchanged with de Charette ideas and views that may help achieve a cease-fire and end the Israeli aggression against Lebanon.

Al-Shar' noted that de Charette presented some positive ideas. He added: We also presented him with some constructive ideas that will help calm the situation. However, so far, Israel has not taken any positive action.

Syria: Al-Shar', Russian Foreign Minister Primakov Discuss Lebanon Developments

JN1804104596 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Moscow—Russian Foreign Minister Yevegeniy Primakov praised Syria's responsible stand on the events in Lebanon. He said Russia is prepared to coordinate efforts with Syria to resolve the situation in Lebanon.

ITAR-TASS reported that Primakov underlined this position in a telephone conversation with Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', who is attending the extraordinary session of the Arab League Council. Russian Foreign Minister Primakov underlined that Syria and Russia have identical views that what is happening in Lebanon is rejected and that Israel's measures encroach on Lebanon's sovereignty and cause damage to civilians and civilian buildings.

Primakov said he is concerned that the tragic conditions resulting from the Israeli attacks against Lebanon will lead to grave consequences that will affect the region and the regional peace process. Primakov stressed that Russia is taking active political measures to stop the escalation of the situation in Lebanon. Al-Shar' praised Russia's position and active measures on the Lebanese crisis.

In a related development, Primakov yesterday summoned Aliza Shenhar, Israeli ambassador in Moscow, and briefed her on Russia's position on the situation in Lebanon. He stressed that the escalation of the Israeli aggression against Lebanon is fruitless and that a political solution is needed.

Syria: Damascus Reports al-Shar' Cairo Statements on Lebanon

JN1804081896 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In statements he made on the sidelines of the Arab League meetings, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' said the resolution adopted by the extraordinary Arab League Council session is a good one and will not only be ink on paper. He urged the Arab states to implement this resolution.

He said: The Arab ministers' deliberations and speeches demonstrated an Arab awareness of Israel's aggressive intentions in the region. They also confirmed an Arab conviction that Israel does not want peace. Israel calls its aggression against the Arab states a fight against terrorism and self-defense. At the same time, it calls the Arabs' self-defense terrorism.

Al-Shar' added: The Israeli aggression exposed the feeble excuses which some Arab states used to accelerate normalization with Israel. He noted that events proved that these states were wrong. He said that the head of the delegation from one of these states said in the closed session of the Arab League Council yesterday that they are embarrassed by the rush to normalize relations with Israel.

In a speech he delivered at the Arab League Council's extraordinary session, which was held on the foreign ministers level, al-Shar' stressed that no one who works for the sake of peace, which is based on the resolutions of international legitimacy and the United Nations, can be convinced that the large-scale aggression against Lebanon is for the sake of peace.

The foreign minister says: If the objective of Israel is to destroy resistance, as it claims, then it has failed utterly because not a single resistance fighter has been killed so far.

Al-Shar' added: I do not believe that any of us who advocate the kind of peace that is based on international legitimacy and the UN resolutions can convince himself at this moment that the large-scale aggression against a fraternal Arab country is for the sake of peace, security, or stability. This is a big lie which Israel is promoting in some world media. We must not fall victim to this world-wide propaganda campaign.

Al-Shar' said Israel mixes the concepts of terrorism and the legitimate national resistance. He said: We denounce terrorism in all its forms and we consider it a criminal act. However, fighting against occupation is, according to international norms and charters, a patriotic action. The killing of innocent people and the destruction of houses in Lebanon is real terrorism.

Al-Shar' added: Terrorism in all its shapes and forms is denounced. However, it is not logical to regard someone who defends his occupied land as a terrorist. Israel wants all of us to join it in the same trench against our nation and people.

Foreign Minister al-Shar' added: Lebanon can arise from this predicament as it arose from greater predicaments before. However, this should serve as a lesson to our nation. We either unite or be finished, and we either arrive at solidarity or surrender.

He added: We are facing a savage aggression, which views the Arabs as a fragmented and divided nation, and does not view us as a single Arab nation and sons of the same Arab homeland.

Al-Shar' concluded his speech by urging the Arab League Council to issue a resolution that reflects facts and holds Israel responsible for the large-scale aggression. Al-Shar' said he is optimistic that the nation will arise from this deteriorating situation.

Syria: Radio Says Syria To Remain Steadfast, Continue Struggle

JN1704140796 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1245 GMT 17 Apr 96

[Station commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Gentlemen: Our Syrian Arab people observe the 50th anniversary of the evacuation; the day when the independence was snatched and independence and national and pan-Arab dignity and sovereignty were crowned.

Over the past 50 years, our people continued the legend of the forefathers—a legend baptized with blood and sacrifices. However, our people today are more self-confident and are more confident of their ability to realize their objectives. The march of struggle, liberation, and peace is led by the struggling President Hafiz al-Asad who was able, by his courage, his national and pan-Arab ideology, and his wise leadership which is full of faith in the future of this nation, to entrench independence and sovereignty. Under his leadership, Syria became a strong fortress for all Arab strugglers—a fortress that does not bargain and does not relinquish an Arab right or one iota of sand.

Syria under al-Asad's leadership, which observes the Evacuation Day anniversary, is at the same time carrying the message of the Arab nation because it believes in the joint Arab destiny. Its national struggle is part of the pan-Arab struggle. National sovereignty cannot be complete without the completion of the pan-Arab sovereignty of the Arab nation. Based on this concept of nationalism and pan-Arabism, the Arab people in Syria fought the pan-Arab battles in Palestine, Algeria, and Lebanon. They have been, and continue to be, at the forefront of those who struggle against the Zionist aggression which threatens the security, sovereignty, and dignity of the Arab nation.

Because Syria is the fortress of the Arabs and their shield, and because it does not accept to separate its national interests from the pan-Arab interests of the nation, it became the hope of the Arab masses, and at the same became the first target of the Zionist-imperialist forces which try with various means to undermine it and weaken its positions. The Zionist enemy wants to kill Arabism in the hearts and abort any hope of reviving the Arabs, mobilizing their forces, and strengthening their ranks.

Despite the fact that some Arabs ignore the reality and objectives of the Israeli aggression, and despite some people's haste to fall into the Israeli trap, Israel was not able to realize its objectives, thanks to the firmness of Syria's position and its clear vision while defending right and dignity.

The brutal Israeli aggression against Lebanon is but a new attempt to strike at the Arab resistance and besiege Syria, which represents the conscience of the nation and the hope of the Arab people everywhere. However, Syria, under the leadership of President Hafiz al-Asad is well aware that Arabism is destined to struggle and to work with all means possible to repel dangers. Syria will continue this march—the march of the forefathers—regardless of how fragmented the Arab situation becomes. No force in the world will be able to dissuade Syria from this march. Martyrdom and sacrifice were the path that led to evacuation, and they are the path for confronting the aggression and putting an end to the tampering with Arab history and pan-Arab values.

Syria, under the leadership of Hafiz al-Asad, will remain steadfast and will continue to struggle until the Arab victory is realized and until the prevalence of a just and comprehensive peace that does not undermine Arab rights, secures the restoration of the land, and guarantees security and dignity.

Syria: World Community Urged To Shoulder Responsibility on Lebanon

JN1804104496 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0515 GMT 18 Apr 96

[Press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] Under the headline "The World Community's Responsibility," TISHRIN says the Israeli officials revealed that the real objective of their large-scale aggression against Lebanon is to establish their occupation of part of Lebanon.

TISHRIN says: Israel set a number of conditions to a cease-fire and to ending its aggression against the Lebanese civilians and the Lebanese economic facilities without pledging, in return, to withdraw from the occupied Lebanese territory.

TISHRIN adds: The Israeli Government refuses to adhere to the July Agreement, which stipulates refraining from bombarding civilians, because it has always been the first to bombard civilians. It now demands amending this agreement to disarm resistance and to make the Lebanese Army protect the occupying Israeli troops after these troops failed to protect themselves despite the murderous weapons they possess.

TISHRIN adds: The recent escalation is part of this plot, which targets Lebanon's sovereignty and natural right to regain its territory.

TISHRIN asserts that all the Israeli attacks failed to prevent the national resistance from retaliating against the aggressors and hitting them on their own ground. This prompted international observers to wonder about the usefulness of this savage aggression.

The paper also stresses that all current developments confirm that Peres has no peace intentions at all. He even surpassed Rabin in showing arrogance and ignorance, in the use of force, and in murdering innocent people.

TISHRIN concludes: Regrettably, the world community is standing idly by in the face of Israel's crimes because of the U.S. pressures and Washington's bias in favor of Israel, its abandonment of the role of a fair mediator in the region, and its endeavor to subjugate Lebanon to Israel's will. However, this endeavor will fail. Lebanon has not abandoned its sovereignty in the past and will not do so now. It holds the world leaders responsible for putting an end to the Israeli belligerency, which exceeded all limits.

Afghanistan

Afghanistan: Taleban Confirms Agreement To Hold Talks in Tehran

BK1704084096 Hong Kong AFP in English
0826 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] ISLAMABAD, April 17 (AFP) — The Afghan Taleban militia on Wednesday confirmed its agreement to send a delegation to Tehran for talks with the Iranian government.

"We will go there to take up irritants in relations with Iran," a Taleban spokesman in Pakistan said. But he ruled out any discussion on Iranian mediation between the Islamic militia and the Kabul government.

The composition of a Taleban team and dates of its visit to Tehran are yet to be finalised, the spokesman, Maulvi Masum Afghani, told AFP.

The move for Taleban-Iran talks in Tehran was announced in Kabul on Tuesday by Iranian deputy foreign minister 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi.

Iran has been engaged in diplomatic efforts aimed at ironing out differences between President Borhanoddin Rabbani in Kabul and Afghan opposition factions.

Masum said talks with the Taleban would raise issues related to what he called Iranian "material support including supply of arms" to Taleban rivals "trying to undermine Taleban control" in the western province of Herat.

The Taleban siezed Herat, which borders on Iran, in September and subsequently laid a siege to Kabul with the aim of toppling Rabbani.

The Taleban spokesman denied claims made this week by the Kabul government that Rabbani troops had seized territory in Herat.

"There has been no fighting in Herat and it remains completely peaceful," he said.

The spokesman, however, confirmed that there had been clashes with pro-Rabbani troops in neighbouring Ghowr province.

No independent confirmation of the conflicting claims was available, although some foreign organisations based in the Herat city have indicated some military activity in the east of Herat.

The loss of Herat was a severe blow to the Rabbani government which has been pre-occupied with recapturing it.

Last week, Rabbani told AFP he had formed a special delegation to hold talks with the Taleban, who consider his government illegitimate. The Taleban have not so far responded to the offer.

The Islamic warriors emerged from the Koranic shcools in 1994 and have since seized half of Afghanistan.

Iranian Foreign Minister, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, said in Islamabad on Tuesday that he expected peace to return to Afghanistan as a result of efforts being made by Pakistan and Iran.

Velayati, who met President Farooq Ahmad Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto during a brief visit here, told Pakistani television that his deputy Alauddin Broujerdi had "successful" talks in Kabul.

"We have more good news about the reconciliation between different (Afghan) factions," he said, without elaborating.

Afghanistan: Iran's Borujerdi Calls For 'Cessation of Hostilities'

LD1704110196 Tehran IRNA in English
1038 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 17, IRNA — Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia-Pacific 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi in Kabul Tuesday called for cessation of hostilities and confrontations in Afghanistan. Borujerdi, currently in Kabul, made the remark in a meeting with Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, member of the High Council of government and senior military commander of the Afghan forces.

The experience of the past four years in Afghanistan proved that war is not the solution to problems in that country and interests of the nation demand an immediate end to the fightings, Borujerdi added. Iran will not spare any efforts to put an end to the Afghan civil war, he said expressing hope that peace will be restored to that country.

Praising Iran's attempts to end the war in Afghanistan, Mas'ud said the Afghan government is against war and bloodshed and has put negotiations with all opposition groups at the top of its agenda. He added that the government considers defence as its natural right and will defend the interests of the Afghan Muslim nation with all its power.

Turning to the important role Iran can play in ending the crisis in the light of Tehran's friendly ties with the government and all the jihad groups, he assured that such visits will play an important role in removing problems.

Afghanistan: Iranian Official Holds Talks With Mas'ud, Akbari

LD1704224696 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] 'Ala'eddin Borujerdi, Iranian deputy foreign minister for Asian-Pacific affairs, who is in Afghanistan, last night [16 April] held talks with Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, military commander of Jam'iyat-e Eslami of Afghanistan [Islamic Society of Afghanistan].

According to a Central News Unit report from Kabul, Borujerdi in his talks with Mas'ud spoke about conspiracies by the enemies of Islam and emphasized the need for ending the fighting in the country.

Borujerdi said: Fighting is not the way to resolve Afghanistan's problems. The country's interests demand an end to the fighting. Iran has not spared its efforts to end the fighting in Afghanistan and hopes that peace is restored as soon as possible.

In expressing appreciation for the continuing efforts of Iran to restore peace and calm in Afghanistan, Mas'ud said: The government of Afghanistan has put negotiations with all sides at the top of all its programs.

In meeting Mohammad Akbari, chairman of the Hezb-e Wahdat-e Eslami's [Islamic Unity Party] council and members of this council in Kabul, Borujerdi said that the Muslim and persecuted people of Afghanistan are now waiting for a lasting peace and this is the Afghan nation's natural right.

Akbari said: As a neighboring country to Afghanistan, Iran can play a special role in Afghanistan.

In yesterday's meeting between Borujerdi and Abdorrah Rasul Sayyaf, leader of the Ettehad-e Eslami of Afghanistan [Islamic Union] emphasis was placed on talks as the only means to resolve Afghanistan's problems and to achieve peace and calm in the country. At this meeting Abdorrasul Sayyaf expressed appreciation for Iran's efforts in helping resolve Afghanistan's problem.

After spending two days in Kabul, Borujerdi today left Kabul for Bamian province.

Afghanistan: Defense Ministry Denies Reports of Taleban Reinforcements

LD1704223896 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Pashto 1230 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Taleban fighters no longer have the ability to attack Kabul, the Afghan capital, but can only kill innocent people by firing rockets.

According to a Central News Unit report from Kabul, an Afghan Defense Ministry spokesman, making the above statement, said that the government had been trying to push back the Taleban from the surrounding areas of Kabul in as short a time as possible.

The spokesman refuted a report, published in the Pakistani press, saying that 1,300 fresh Taleban fighters and 63 new tanks had arrived in Chahar Asiab and Maydanshar.

Afghanistan: Taleban Rocket Attack Hits Turkish Embassy in Kabul

LD1704173996 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Rockets fired today by the Taleban group landed in the residential areas of Kabul and on the Turkish embassy.

BAKHTAR reported that Benazir Bhutto's Taleban today fired 28 rockets on Kabul, killing four people and injuring [word indistinct] others. One residential property was damaged.

Two rockets hit the Turkish embassy, destroying a section of the embassy building. [words indistinct]

Two people were seriously injured in Qala-e Wahid [in west Kabul], as a result of a mine explosion.

Red Cross hospital doctors told our correspondent that two Kabul residents were seriously injured in a Taleban rocket attack which took place (? last night).

Afghanistan: IRNA on Conflicting Fighting Reports in Ghowr, Herat

LD1704210796 Tehran IRNA in English 2050 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kabul, April 17, IRNA — While armed struggle in raging between Kabul forces and the opposition militia Taleban in the border regions of the Ghowr and Herat provinces, contradictory reports are being continually released.

Sources in Afghan Defense Ministry had earlier claimed that the government forces have managed to completely ocntrol the province of Ghowr following the fall of (Toulak) and Saghar.

However, the latest reports indicate that the said areas have been recaptured by the Taleban after their dispatch of fresh militia forces to the region.

A Taleban source on Wednesday claimed that his group has retaken all its lost postions in the provinces of Ghowr and Herat.

The commander of Kabul forces in the province of Ghowr predicted that the joint forces of Hekmatyar and Rabbani are expected to embark on vast offensives in near future on different axes in a bid to liberate the province of Herat and other southwestern parts of Afghanistan.

India

India: Prime Minister Warns of 'Arms Race' in South Asia

BK1704114996 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 15 Apr 96 p 10

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao today deplored the US decision to renew arms supply to Pakistan warning that the move would escalate arms race in South Asia.

Launching the party's campaign in the State, the Prime Minister said that India would initiate measures to maintain arms balance in the region and squarely deal with all the conspiracies against it. Mr Rao also stated that India would equip itself with the latest weapon to counter the US move.

Appealing to the people to vote for the Congress to ensure stability and integrity, the Prime Minister said that during the past five years the Congress had ensured all round development of the nation. He said when his government took over, 50 per cent of the country's population was below the poverty line. "Today according to figures of the Planning commission, it is reduced to 23 per cent. This was made possible due to the strong economic policies implemented by the party," he pointed out.

The Prime Minister said, Haryana was an agricultural state, and the Congress ensured high prices to farmers for their yield. The current price of Rs [rupees] 380 per quintal of wheat is lucrative, he said, adding the need of the hour is to increase the income of the farmers by providing them post harvest activities. The Prime Minister said flowers and fruits had a tremendous potential for exports but being perishable, they required heavy investments for increasing the shelf life. He said the money can be made available to co operative and companies if the farmers got together. The income of the farmers can also be increased by selling up value adding industries around villages, he said.

The Prime Minister took time off to visit the historic Braham Sarovar Tank before addressing the election meeting.

Addressing another election meeting in Kangra today, the Prime Minister blamed Pakistan for fomenting trouble in Jammu and Kashmir to scuttle the elections and said India will not be deterred.

Earlier efforts to hold poll in Jammu and Kashmir was thwarted due to Charar-i-Sharif incident. He reiterated peace and stability was a key to prosperity.

The Prime Minister reminded that earlier problems in Punjab, Assam and other places were solved.

"Our commitment to hold poll in Jammu and Kashmir was amply demonstrated by ordering elections in the State. In spite of troubles created by across the border and also attempts by some other elements to stall the poll process in Jammu and Kashmir, 187 candidates are in fray for six Lok Sabha seats and it was a clear reflection of mood of the people that they wanted election."

Castigating protagonists of Hindutva [Hinduism], Mr Rao said Hindus and Muslims lived in this country in peace for centuries and no one can throw Muslims out of this country.

He cautioned the people to beware of certain parties which are out to arouse communal passions and said that their main aim was to focus attention away from real issues like poverty, employment, food and shelter.

Economic reforms are irreversible, he declared and all parties had accepted it and these policies pursued during the last five years, have brought the country to a take a stage and any hurdle in speedy implementation of these policies would take India backward which will be disastrous.

He said all poorest, landless and houseless persons would be provided free house by 9th plan by constructing 1.44 crore housing units the country under the Indira Awas Yojana.

He said according to the Congress manifesto, 30 per cent reservation for women would be introduced for Lok Sabha and State Assemblies on panchayat [village council] pattern.

The State Chief Minister, Mr V.B. Singh, also spoke at the rally.

Referring to party squabbles, the Prime Minister, who also visited Ludhiana, today said "this is not the time to settle scores. It is not the time to express contrary opinions on the choice of candidates, there could be some whom some people may not like. It was a huge task to select candidates for the Assemblies and Parliament. So please forget about the candidates and vote for Congress, the party. This is in the interest of a peaceful and prosperous India."

Mr Rao said the people in Punjab by voting for the Congress and bringing Mr Beant Singh on the forefront had set a precursor to peace in Assam, Bodoland and Jharkhand region.

Mr Rao said that the congress was the only party with a definite agenda for development and peace. It initiated big research for defence and helped the country acquire weapons like Agni, Prithvi missiles and light combat aircraft.

Mr Rao's remark that leaders like Mrs Indira Gandhi or Mr Rajiv Gandhi lacked funds to finance the pace of development, evoked protests from the public. Reacting to this the Prime Minister said that he was only following the programmes initiated by these leaders.

Mr Rao made repeated references to late Mr Beant Singh and appealed to the people of Ludhiana to vote for his widow as tribute to his great sacrifice. He also urged the Punjabis to vote for all the 13 Congress candidates.

India: Central Team Holds Talks With Militant Leaders in Kashmir

BK1604134696 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The high-powered central team now on a visit to Kashmir today held discussions with some militant leaders in Srinagar. The meeting is in continuation of the dialogue the union home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, had with the militants in Delhi early this year. Later, briefing newsmen, the special secretary in the Home Ministry, Mr. V.K. Jain, who is heading the team said that a decision has been taken to release some arrested persons before 'Id [Muslim religious festival] and the modalities in this regard will be worked out by the state government. He said it has also been decided to speed up the process of disarming all those holding unlicensed firearms.

The militant leaders while talking to newsmen expressed satisfaction about the progress of the talks and said that a lot of ground had been covered on the demands put forward by them to the government.

India: Central Team Reviews Steps for Holding Elections in Kashmir

BK1704013596 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The high-powered central team has completed the review of the law and order situation and the steps to be taken to conduct a free and fair poll in Jammu and Kashmir. Before its departure for Delhi today, the team also met some militant leaders in Srinagar as a continuation of the dialogue the union home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, started in Delhi last month.

Briefing newsmen later, the leader of the team, Mr. V.K. Jain, special secretary, Home, said the talks have been going on very well, and given the transparency and sincerity with which these are being conducted, the purpose of bringing people back to the national mainstream will be achieved soon. The militant leaders while talking to newsmen expressed satisfaction on the progress of the talks saying that a lot of ground has been covered on the demands put forward by them to the government.

Today's talks, the third in the series, were attended by Imran Rahi, Bilal Lodhi, Ghulam Moiuddin Lone, and Abu Abed. Mr. Jain said that a decision has been taken to release some arrested persons before 'Id [Muslim religious festival]. He said modalities in this regard will be worked out by the state government. He said the process of disarming all those holding unlicensed firearms is also going on and a decision has been taken to speed up the process.

The Pradesh [State] Congress-I president, Mr. G.R. Kar, has expressed concern at the alleged activities of some groups holding unlicensed guns in the state. Addressing a press conference in Srinagar, he said a two-member team of the party has been sent to Delhi to apprise the central leadership on this issue.

Meanwhile, preparations for the ensuing polls in the state are in full swing. These include training of staff, printing of ballot papers, and deployment of paramilitary forces. This was disclosed by the chief secretary, Mr. Ashok Kumar, while talking to newsmen in New Delhi. Mr. Kumar said that for the smooth conduct of the elections, the state would need 550 companies of paramilitary forces. He said the Army is not involved in this exercise.

India: Ministry Welcomes EU Call To Pakistan on Kashmir

BK1804054196 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The European Union [EU] has called on Pakistan to prevent armed infiltration into Jammu and Kashmir. The statement was made at the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva yesterday. Welcoming it, an External Affairs Ministry release in New Delhi expressed the hope that all right-thinking people will support India's efforts to restore popular government in Jammu and Kashmir through elections.

India: Minister Denies BJP Charge on Purchase of Russian Arms

BK1704161696 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The external affairs minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee, has denied any arms deal with Russia as alleged by the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]. Speaking to newsmen in Agartala today, he described the allegation as baseless. The BJP had alleged that the center has signed an arms deal with Russia to purchase eight multicrore SU-30 MK fighter aircraft worth 1,200 crore rupees.

India: Envoy to UN Critical of OIC Chief's Statement on Kashmir

BK1704120496 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] India has strongly deplored the one-sided statements on human rights records saying that these cannot be conducive to bring about peace and normalcy. Exercising his right to reply after the OIC [Organization of Islamic Conference] Secretary General, Dr. Hamid Algabid, spoke about the situation in Kashmir, the Indian representative pointed out that partisan views will encourage terrorism and violence. The deputy Indian representative, Mr. H.K. Singh told the ongoing Human Rights Commission in Geneva that India rejects the allegations leveled by the Organization of Islamic Conference on human rights situation in Kashmir. He said the resumption of the democratic process in Jammu and Kashmir itself speaks for the current law and order situation.

India: 8 'Foreign Mercenaries' Among 10 Killed in Jammu

BK1704034796 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ten militants, including eight foreign mercenaries, have been killed in an encounter with the BSF [Border Security Force] near Bhadarwaha in Jammu. According to an official press release, the encounter followed when the militants resorted to heavy firing at a BSF contingent which had cordoned off a terrorist hideout. The BSF party had gone to the village Dharundi on receiving a tip-off that some militants were planning to create disturbance. A large quantity of arms and ammunition was also recovered from the hideout.

India: Rao Criticizes Party's Breakaway, Rebel Groups

BK1404105996 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1530 GMT 13 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] With only two weeks left for the first phase of polling, major political parties have stepped up their election campaign. Addressing a public meeting at Balaghat in Madhya Pradesh, the Congress-I president, Mr. Narasimha Rao, criticized the breakaway and rebellious outfits of the party. He alleged that they were exploiting the name of the Congress-I.

Former union minister, Mr. Madhavrao Scindia, has said that he would campaign against the Congress-I president in Nandyal and Berhampur constituencies if invited to do so. Talking to reporters in Gwalior, Mr. Scindia said he has not decided yet on the invitation extended to him by breakaway Congress-I leaders to campaign for them.

The Bharatiya Janata Party leader, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, has ruled out any coalition with the Congress-I in the postelection scenario.

The Bahujan Samaj Party chief, Mr. Kansi Ram, has said that his party should be in a position to play a pivotal role in the postelection scenario so that the interests of the downtrodden receive attention.

In another development, three leaders of the All India Indira Congress-Tiwari in Madhya Pradesh have left the party and joined the Congress-I. They include the state vice president, Mr. Sobram Singh Parmar.

India: BJP Leader 'Not in Favor of Any Change' in Campaign Speech

BK1704161496 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] leader, Mr. Kalyan Singh, says he will not like to record his election speech for telecast from Lucknow Doordarshan [Television] if any of its portions are removed. Talking to media persons in Lucknow, he said that his party is also not in favor of any change in the recording of the campaign speech made by Lucknow station of All India Radio.

As reported, the Election Commission has directed removal of certain portions from the script of Mr. Kalyan Singh which the commission considered as violative of the model code.

India: Janata Dal Party Issues Election Manifesto

BK1704115096 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 16 Apr 96 pp 1, 20

[Unattributed report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Janata Dal [JD] has promised upward revision of the 50 per cent ceiling on reservations through a constitutional amendment while ensuring the extension of the reservation polls to the private sector as also the judiciary in the case of Other Backward Classes (OBCs).

The much-delayed manifesto of the party mooted a 7-point plan to eradicate corruption in public life besides promising protection of the rights of the minorities, 'right to work' as a fundamental right of the citizens and 60 per cent budgetary allocation for the development of agriculture and rural areas.

Also, the "Alternative Economic Strategy" forwarded by it assigned the State a "definitive" role without depending merely on the market forces. Besides, it promised a list of 'yes' and 'no' for the entry of multinationals.

All front-ranking leaders of the party, barring JD president Lalu Prasad Yadav, were present during the release here today of the manifesto. Among them were Mr Sharad Yadav, Mufti Mohammed Sayed, Mr Ram Vilas Paswan, Mr Surendra Mohan, Mr I.K. Gujral, Mr Jaipal Reddy and Mr Wasim Ahmed. They pledged to "empower the poor" and provide a 'scam-free' regime if elected by the people.

The Janata Dal's ambitious formula to check corruption entailed a multi-member Lok Pal [ombudsman] to be appointed by the President in consultation with the Chief Justice of India, Speaker of the Lok Sabha the Rajya Sabha Chairman and leaders of the Government and the Opposition in both the Houses. The proposed institution will have powers to look into complaints against the PM [prime minister], Union Ministers, Chief Ministers and others holding high public offices.

Statutory provisions will simultaneously be made, the manifesto promised, for declaration of assets annually by all those holding public offices and offices of political parties. The declarations will be scrutinised by an independent commission. Likewise, the Official Secrets Act will be revised drastically (for greater transparency in the functioning of the Government) and Right to Information made a Fundamental Right.

For the investigation of white collar of fences, a separate autonomous organisation is proposed by the Dal, which also intended freeing the CBI [Central Bureau of Investigation] from the control of the Department of Personnel. Public auditing of the accounts of political parties will be made a statutory requirement.

Apart from corruption, the JD document dwelt at considerable length on the social justice theme especially its strategies to broaden the scope of the programme through economic empowerment of the dispossessed groups. It said the quantum of reservation for the Scheduled Castes and Tribes [SC/ST] must be revised to conform to the increase in their population. Through a constitutional amendment, if necessary, such affirmative benefits be conferred on the Dalit Christians.

"The Janata Dal believes," said the manifesto, "that after the constitutional amendment adopted by Parliament in respect of reservation in promotions for the SC/ST, it is only logical that the same provisions be made for the Other Backward Classes... The reservations in favour of the OBCs should be extended (also) to the judiciary."

As for raising the ceiling of 50 per cent imposed by the Supreme Court, the Dal recommended constitution of an independent commission to examine, in depth, the actual quantum of reservation in each State to settle the issues relating to "further social categorisation among the socially and educationally backward classes." The need for such course of action, it averred was highlighted in the acceptance by Parliament of the situation in Tamil Nadu, where the reservation quota was far above the ceiling determined by the apex court.

Similarly, an independent commission was found "desirable" by the JD for providing reservation to certain religious minorities without disturbing the arrangement in place for the backward sections among them. The party is opposed to the "creamy layer" policy and, as stated by Mr Paswan, was willing to review its position only ten years from now.

In passing though, the economically backward among the forward castes also figured in the JD's scheme of things. It favoured a constitutional amendment to provide reservation for them. Stressing the "injustice" done to the backward classes by removal of reservation through privatisation of public sector, it said: "...The reservation policy will have to cover the private sector as well".

Interestingly the JD has also sought application of reservations in the distribution of licences and quotas concerning economic activities under Government control.

Prepared with an eye on the party's natural constituency comprising the OBCs, the Muslims and the Dalits, the manifesto emphasised implementation of the reservation policy through special recruitment drives. In the same go, it pledged elimination of the inhuman scavenging system in two years besides ensuring permanent employment for safai mazdoors [scavengers].

Condemning the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party]-Shiv Sena's "anti- minority" decisions, the JD declared its intention to reverse them. It said: "The Act adopted by Parliament in respect of religious shrines will be fully respected. All disputes relating to religious shrines including the Ayodhya dispute, will be referred to the Supreme Court to be settled under Article 138 (2)."

On the economic front, the Dal opposed the "exit" policy. It also charged the Congress Government with collaborating in the MNCs [multinational corporations] designs of imposing on India an unequal and exploitative order. It proposed to insulate the sensitive areas of financial services (like insurance and capital markets) from the influence of international financial cartels.

The party argued that the development of infrastructure cannot be left to the private sector and the MNCs alone and the State must resume a leading role in this area. In defence of the country's vast genetic wealth, it advocated a patent regime which would safeguard the interests of farmers in respect of fertilisers and seeds besides the drugs and textile sectors.

Established (Indian) companies the manifesto noted required to be protected from hostile take-overs. It welcomed in principle the competition from the MNCs but sought a level-playing field for indigenous industry "imperilled" by indiscriminate globalisation.

The party does not back winding up of the private sector. Rather, it wanted improvement in the functioning of PSUs [public sector units] under professional, genuinely autonomous managements.

"Entry of MNCs in areas which affect interests of the people economy and environment will be avoided," promised the manifesto. It said: "Whatever a public sector enterprise has to be privatised, 40 per cent of its equity will be invested in the National Social Security Fund (NSSF), 10 per cent will be sold to the employees and the rest will be sold to the public."

India: Text of BJP Election Broadcast Ordered Altered

BK1704021296 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Election Commission has directed the chief electoral officer, the CEO, of Uttar Pradesh to make necessary alterations in the text of the election telecast of the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] conforming to the law and model code of conduct. In a communication to the CEO, the commission said no appeal can be made to the voters in the name of religion. Later talking to newspersons, the election commissioner, Mr. G.V.G. Krishnamurthy, said the principle will apply to all political parties while they are telecasting or broadcasting their election appeal on All India Radio and doordarshan [television].

India: Congress-I Rules Out Alliance With BJP After Elections

BK1704140396 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1230 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Congress-I says there is no question of an alliance with the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] in the post-election period. Talking to newspersons in New Delhi today, the party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, said in fact his party is the only one which has never had an alliance with the BJP or the Janata Dal. Referring to the election commission's decision on the BJP election broadcast from the Lucknow station of AIR and Doordarshan [television], Mr. Gadgil said his party is glad that the commission has taken note of the complaint lodged by the Congress-I legal cell in this regard.

India: Election Commission Rejects Malpractice Charge Against Rao

BK1704152496 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1430 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The election commission has rejected the complaint filed by the Andhra Pradesh unit of the All India Indira Congress-Tiwari against the prime minister, Mr. Narasimha Rao, for alleged electoral malpractice in Nandyal parliamentary constituency. The election commissioner, Mr. G.V.G. Krishnamurthy, announcing this in New Delhi today said the complaint is false and baseless as the enquiry report of the chief electoral officer of Andhra Pradesh states that the suitcases and trunks carried luggage, including clothes and the gear of SPG [Special Protection Group] personnel.

India: National Front, Left Parties Announce Common Poll Program

BK1704155896 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The National Front, left parties, and their allies have announced a common minimum program for the coming Lok Sabha polls. Releasing the program at a joint news conference in New Delhi today, leaders of the left parties and the Janata Dal said they will follow a common approach to provide a secular democratic alternative to the people. They said the program has also been endorsed by the Samajwadi Party. The six-page document says that these parties stand for preserving national unity, social, and economic equality in all spheres and are committed to secularism and federalism. Those present included the CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist] General Secretary, Mr. Harkishen Singh Surjeet; Mr. M. Farooqi of CPI; and Mr. I.K. Gujral and Mr. Jaipal Reddy of the Janata Dal.

Iran

Iran: Velayati Urges UN To Double Efforts To End Israeli Attacks

LD1804095096 Tehran IRNA in English 0912 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, New York, April 18, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, in a letter to the U.N. Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, on Wednesday [17 April], urged him to double efforts to end the Zionist aggression upon Lebanon and return peace and stability to that country.

Referring to the Israeli savage attacks during the recent days, Velayati stressed that the recent aggression by the Zionist regime has reportedly brought about occupation of other areas of Lebanon, killing and injury of hundreds of civilians including women and children.

As to displacement of a large number of residents from southern Lebanon and destruction of economic and civilian installations, he noted, "the perpetration of acts of terrorism and imposition of inhumane measures by Israeli military are neither surprising nor a new phenomenon, for they are integral to the expansionist and aggressive nature of this regime which has disregarded the will of international community and violated numerous General Assembly resolutions and Security Council resolution 425 with impunity."

Velayati further reiterated that the primary reasons for continuation of the Middle East crisis is the absence of an effective measure to deal with Israeli aggression and acts of terrorism on the one hand and disregarding the legitimate demands of the Lebanese and Palestinian Muslims in the region, on the other.

"It is in this context that embracing unrealistic and unfair solutions have, in practice, precluded the return of a durable peace and stability to the region," added the letter.

Furthermore, he noted, the attempt to label the just struggle of Muslims in Lebanon and Palestine for freedom and liberation of their own land from foreign occupation as terrorism and the policy of certain states to remain aloof and silent to savage, inhumane and terrorist acts of the Zionist regime can never be considered an appropriate approach in dealing with the longstanding issue of the Middle East. Such approach results only in further complication of the issue and encouragement of the occupying power to persist in its violent and suppressive policies, he said adding, it is imperative for the international community to prevent, on the basis of the lessons learned, the continuation of such criminal acts by Israel, and to present a just solution which would bring a lasting peace and security to the region.

In conclusion, Velayati called on Butrus-Ghali to circulate the letter as a document of 50th session of the General Assembly.

Iran: Hizballah Official Calls For Halt to Israeli Attacks

LD1804095696 Tehran IRNA in English 0936 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 18, IRNA — Halt in the massacre of the innocent people is the prerequisite to termination of the recent clashes in south Lebanon and west Biqa', representative of Lebanon's Hizballah in Iran told the morning English-language daily 'IRAN NEWS'.

Abdallah Safiudden, in an interview with the paper printed on Thursday [18 April], added, "this condition was set forth in a meeting of the Syrian and American foreign ministers in July 1993. It was put forward as an agreement between Israel and Syria."

On Europe's reaction to the recent Zionist aggressions on Lebanon, he said, "positive reactions of European countries, including France, toward the region indicate that differences of views exist between France and the United States or in a sense between Europe and the United States, since France has done so in coordination with other European countries."

On Iran's role, he said that ever since the victory of the Islamic revolution, the Islamic republic has supported the world oppressed and opposed the occupation of Palestine and south Lebanon.

"The new Zionist operations will bear no fruit for them, as the blood of our people is not water to be shed on the streets. We will keep on supporting our nation," he emphasized.

Iran: Commentary Calls Israeli Attacks Counterproductive

LD1704165096 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 1008 GMT 17 Apr 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Translated Text] Six days after the start of the Zionist regime's aggression on Lebanon, observers have begun to assess the extent of the achievement of Tel Aviv's goals. According to most views expressed, although American support resulted in organizations like the Security Council not being able to take steps to condemn the Zionist regime, the results achieved in the region testify to Tel Aviv's failure to reach its goals.

By attacking Lebanon, the Zionist regime attempted to weaken the defensive movements in southern Lebanon on the one hand, and by knocking out that strong lever to persuade the Lebanese Government to consent to the continuation of the occupation of the southern regions and the disarming of the resistance movement of that country.

But, six days after the Zionist regime's invasion and the coming to light of Tel Aviv's hidden intentions, events contrary to Israel's goals occurred and, alongside the Lebanese resistance movement, the people of Lebanon created another saga for the occupiers.

In fact, that six-day saga is a reminder of the self-sacrifices and brave actions which repeatedly brought great defeats to the Zionist aggressors in recent years and sealed the territorial integrity of that small and flourishing Middle-Eastern country with the blood of Lebanese men, women, and children.

In fact, not only have the recent Israeli attacks not reduced the popularity of the resistance movement members among the people and not weakened their position but, by endorsing the view that the Zionist regime can only be controlled with force and dealt with from a position of strength, it brought about more support by the people and government of Lebanon for the movement.

On the other hand, by attacking Lebanon's residential areas and economic installations, Israel intended to put pressure on the Lebanese Government to create a rift between Syria and Lebanon, so that, by holding separate talks with them, it could gain its desired concessions from a superior position.

But six days of savage Israeli attacks on Lebanon have not only not created a rift between Syria and Lebanon, but have also become a factor in bringing about unity and coordination between the countries in the region, to the extent that the secretary-general of the Arab League has warned the Zionist regime, declaring that if the Israeli aggression does not cease immediately that regime would face a retaliatory attack.

The Arab League members are reviewing the issue of Israel's invasion of Lebanon and how to deal with it. And more importantly, although Israel's actions have been supported by international institutes and powers that advocate human rights, because of the savage slaughter of innocent men, women and children and their being made homeless, regional and global public opinion regard Israel as the epitome of state terrorism, which attempts to realize its cursed goals by resorting to the most savage methods and smashing Lebanon's residential areas and economic installations. This has foiled all the efforts of the Zionist regime and America, who tried to paint a peace-seeking picture of themselves and deceive the regional people and global public opinion. Particularly since the people in the occupied lands have expressed their solidarity and allegiance with the people of Lebanon in the recent difficult conditions and have expressed their sympathy for the predicaments and troubles of the Muslim people of Lebanon.

Iran: Radio Views Deployment of Israeli Military Planes in Turkey

NC1704135796 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Turkish 1630 GMT 16 Apr 96

[Unattributed commentary: "Cooperation Between Turkey and the Zionist Regime"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The news agencies report that a squadron of Israeli fighter planes arrived in Turkey on 15 April. This is the first of several squadrons that will train in Turkey in accordance with the military agreement Ankara and Tel Aviv have signed. The daily CUMHURIYET has quoted several Foreign Ministry sources as saying that the squadron is made up of 10-to-18 aircraft. Turkey has claimed that the fighter planes will not be armed during their training flights.

Meanwhile, many countries in the region have protested against the military agreement Ankara has signed with Israel. In an effort to avoid criticism in Turkey and abroad, Ankara first denied signing any agreement with Israel. However, the issue is very important, so Turkish officials were unable to conceal it.

Political observers have said that the security threat the Zionist military presence in Turkey will pose worries even the governments which have reconciled with Israel.

The deployment of Israel's military aircraft to Turkey is linked to the expansionist policies of the United States and Israel in the Middle East. The fact that U.S. military aircraft have been based in Jordan and Israeli aircraft have been deployed in Turkey at about the same time cannot be regarded as a coincidence. The United States and Israel have disclosed that the deployment of military aircraft in Turkey is limited to training activities and the control of the restricted area in Iraq. However, it is a fact that Washington and Tel Aviv have other political and military objectives in mind.

The military objective of the United States and Israel is to isolate the forces that are opposed to the peace process with the Zionists. Their political objective is to strengthen their influence on the military developments in foreign countries and consolidate their political hegemony in the region.

The Israeli deployment of military aircraft to Turkey will not only threaten the security of the countries in the region but also create dangerous developments in Turkey itself. It will be recalled that the decision of the Ankara government to transfer Incirlik Air Base to the United States impinged on its sovereignty in the past. As if that was not enough, Ankara has now allowed Israel to carry out military activities in Turkey. That will strengthen the influence of the Zionists in that country. The pro-Islamic Welfare Party [RP] has criticized the Turkish minister of national defense in the National Assembly. The RP stand is that the Turkish people are worried about Israel's military presence in their country. Political observers say that the Turkish people will be sensitive about the military agreement.

Iran: Ulema Condemn Israeli Raids on Lebanon

LD1704185496 Tehran IRNA in English
1726 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Mahabad, West Azerbaijan Prov., April 17, IRNA — Members of Shiite and Sunnite ulema in this north-western province of Iran Wednesday [17 April] condemned indiscriminate air raids on southern Lebanon by the Zionist government and deplored the silence of international circles in the face of the genocide there.

Leader of Friday congressonal prayers of Mahabad said the Zionist atrocity with Muslims in southern Lebanon would not go unanswered, and head of the Islamic center of Western Iran Hojjat ol-Eslam Sabouri commented that the Zionists would pay a heavy price for their criminal acts.

Also director of Islamic Tablighat [Propaganda] Organization of Mahabad Hojjat ol-Eslam Tavassani condemned the Zionist raids of southern Lebanon Wednesday and observed that the development would not dampen the resolve of world Muslims to wipe out the Zionist government.

In similar outbursts here Wednesday, school teachers, the personnel of Mahabad brigade, civil servants, and the masses condemned Zionist hostilities against Muslims in southern Lebanon.

Iran: Qom Theologians Protest Israeli Raids on Lebanon

LD1704211296 Tehran IRNA in English
2059 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Holy Qom, April 17, IRNA — The ulema, scholars and theologians of the holy city of Qom staged a rally on Wednesday [17 April] to condemn the brutal crimes of Israel in southern Lebanon.

The theological center in Qom suspended its classes today to sympathize with the oppressed people in Lebanon.

The demonstrators carrying placards in different languages chanted slogans against the U.S. and Israel and in support of the Muslims of Palestine and Lebanon.

The students of the theological center shrouded in white expressed readiness for jihad against Israel under the leadership of the leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i.

The demonstrators gathered at the site of the holy shrine of Hazrat-e-Masoumeh and issued a statement in five points.

The statement criticized the silence of the international forums towards the developments in Lebanon and regretted that the self-centered leaders of certain Islamic states has been the reason for further crimes carried out by the Zionists against the oppressed people of Lebanon.

The statement also condemned the military agreement between Turkey and Israel and the so-called Middle East peace process.

Iran: Editorial Urges EU To Prevent 'Gordian Knot' in Lebanon

LD1704202496 Tehran IRAN NEWS in English
15 Apr 96 pp2,13

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel, breaking all the limits of humanitarian and international behaviour, has created an atmosphere of terror in Lebanon, a country which has just begun a reconstruction plan after 15 years of bloody civil war. That war had devastated a nation which was once a leading commercial and banking hub in the Middle East.

Today, the Mediterranean country is desperately looking towards those who claim to be the champions of human rights for assistance, if not in a practical sense, then at least for condemnation of obvious and naked crimes like that being committed by Israel in Lebanon now.

Israeli Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has declared that his government did not seek permission from the United States before embarking on this deadly violence against the people of Lebanon en masse.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher appeared on CNN trying to give the impression that the US was not consulted on these military activities in Lebanon.

But we all know that, as usual, both Peres and Christopher are trying to dupe world public opinion. Israel has committed the worst of its crimes with US-supplied sophisticated weaponry and it is next to impossible for Tel Aviv to dare so without a green light from Washington.

Both the US and Israel are in an election year and we know to expect the unexpected and uncivilized from them. But what about European countries?

In the past we have experienced situations when, based on any fabricated pretense, ambassadors from Iran, Libya and several other countries have been summoned to explain themselves before these European countries, concerning incidents in which these nations were not involved at all.

Now the same countries are mum in the face of live reports from their own media which show the devastation of Israeli aerial attacks, a bomb hitting a Lebanese ambulance dead-on, children dead or carried screaming by fleeing adults, leaving behind their own homes. Young and old, men and women, hospitals and places of worship are not safe from the terror of Israel. The EU and non-EU countries are passive observers. Why?

The same EU members are the supporters of the Middle East peace process and believe that it is the only mechanism for stability in the region. If Israel is not brought to its senses, peace will be in jeopardy. If so, the EU will also shoulder the responsibility for deteriorating law and order in the occupied lands.

No hope from the US, but the EU should prevent the Gordian Knot.

Iran: RESALAT Views Reasons Behind Turkish-Israeli Accord

NC1704180096 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 6 Apr 96 p 16

[Commentary by Heshmatollah Falahatpisheh: "Turkey—Platform of Treason"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On the basis of the recent cooperation agreement between Turkey and the Zionist regime, which has been announced by the Turkish defense minister, pilots of Israeli fighter-bombers can use Turkish airspace and airfields for their training programs. Ankara has stated that it wants to assist the Zionists in this way and to help them make up for the absence of sufficient maneuvering space in the occupied territories!

During the past two years, Ankara's approach to the Zionist regime has been so rapid that Turkey has actually turned into a platform for Zionist-American treason against other regional countries. During this period, the two countries' commercial and military relations have increased considerably and two major bilateral cooperation agreements in the military and commercial fields have been concluded. Former Turkish Prime Minister Ciller's visit to Tel Aviv two years ago and Turkish President Suleyman Demirel's official four-day visit to that country in Esfand [month ending 20 March 1996] has further accelerated the secularists' rapprochement with the Zionists.

The sinister alliance among America, Turkey, and the Zionist regime over the past few months has pursued a policy of joint infiltration and intervention. The Islamic Republic of Iran and, to lesser extents, other governments that have been stamped with ugly labels by the West are the targets of this policy. The sole fruit of the extensive propaganda sparked off in Esfand by this sinister triumvirate in the heat of the Sharm-al-Shaykh conference was failure. Nevertheless, Clinton, Peres, and Demirel have apparently sworn to pursue the aggressive American-Zionist objectives in the region on their own. Therefore, the opinion of some political observers that a major part of Gingrich's $20-million budget for intervention and espionage against Iran is being allocated to Turkey is not very far from the truth.

Meanwhile, during the early part of this month [beginning 21 March 1996], Shim'on Peres called for the formation of an international alliance against Iran, Libya, and Iraq. The signing of the recent military agreement by Ankara is considered to be the first green light to this proposal. The Zionist regime's record includes the attack on Iraq's nuclear installations in 1980. And last year, its late Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin threatened to carry out a similar attack on Iranian installations. Ankara's subservience is bringing the age-old enemy of the Muslims nearer to the sacred Islamic borders. Therefore, Ankara will be responsible for any possible consequences of future military deals.

In addition to having inflicted a blow to the already flimsy legitimacy their coalition government at home, Yilmaz's government—which is not the true representative of the Turkish people—has also struck a blow to the principle of good neighborliness in the region.

On the other hand, over the past few years, Turkey has violated the sanctity of borders. Iraq has been the major target of these aggressions. Some days ago, Yilmaz announced that he has plans for the annihilation of the PKK's positions 10 km inside northern Iraq. Now the arrival of the Zionist regime's bombers has created an uneasy situation in the area and gives the Turkish Air Force a chance to do as it pleases. On 31 March, Turkey's National Assembly renewed the mandate for the deployment of the multinational force known as "Poised Hammer" on its territory for another three months. This period, which will be renewed again, is for the implementation of America's dual containment policy and for the completion of Turkey's policy of the crushing the Kurds.

Iran: Daily Says Arab Rulers Should Confront Israeli Aggression

LD1704183696 Tehran KAYAN INTERNATIONAL in English 15 Apr 96 p2

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Several Iranian dailies have expressed disgust at the indifference of Arab heads of state over the continued attacks of the Zionist regime on an Arab land: Lebanon. In keeping with their un-Islamic and decades-old tradition of remaining mute and blind to the atrocities committed by the Zionist terrorists against defenseless Arabs in Palestine, the Arab rulers are displaying no other sentiments other than sheer apathy over the recent killings of innocent civilians in Beirut and South Lebanon.

The same attitude was displayed by Arab leaders 10 years ago when on 14th April 1986 U.S. warplanes dropped bombs on an Arab country: Libya. In that unprovoked air raid 37 people, including an adopted daughter of Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, were killed.

That attack was rightly termed as "state terrorism" by Col. al-Qadhdhafi.

Apparently, grounds are being prepared by the government of President Bill Clinton for carrying out another act of state terrorism against Libya after a 10-year hiatus. Washington, perhaps, feels that it is time to show some reaction to a country that has refused to yield despite economic sanctions and imposed seclusion.

Towards this end, an American propaganda campaign has been launched claiming that Libya is building the world's largest underground factory to produce nerve gas and other chemical weapons.

It should be noted that French President Jacques Chirac in his recent visit to the Middle East made it known that France is unaware of the existence of any such project in Libya.

Tripoli has categorically denied the allegations, stating that the project at Tarhunah, 65-km south-east of the capital, is part of an irrigation scheme.

Nevertheless, U.S. Defence Secretary William Perry announced last week that United States may use military force tc halt the project if all other means failed.

What we like to point out is that the U.S. and its illegitimate offspring Israel feel free to behave as bullies and do whatever they like because the Arabs are not complaining.

And the complacency on their part — the U.S. and the Zionist state — can certainly be changed if the oil-rich Arab emirs and shaykhs endeavor to overcome their compliance to, and fear of, the great satan. It is time they shed their apathy and showed some concern for their Arab brethren. They can take courage from the Islamic Republic of Iran which raises its voice in protest to any misdeeds against its Muslim brothers, be it in Palestine, Lebanon, Kashmir, Iraq, Algeria.

But first of all, the Arab leaders should realize that their subservience to Washington has to be discarded. Iran can be a good model for them in this respect too.

Iran: Commentary Denounces Israeli Military Agreement With Turkey

LD1704170496 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 17 Apr 96

[Unattributed commentary]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Arab League asked for cancellation of the recent military agreement between Turkey and the Zionist regime on Tuesday 16 April. Many regional states had also protested previously to the military agreement between Ankara and Tel Aviv, regarding it to be in line with [the] Zionist regime's expansionist policies and a new source of tension in the region. Based on the agreement, Zionist aircraft are allowed to use the Turkish airspace to conduct spying flights against the states of the region, particularly Iran, Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq.

It is only natural for many countries of the region, which are facing ever more aggressive policies of the Zionist regime — a blatant case of which has been witnessed right now in Lebanon — to be sensitive and suspicious towards such an unjustified agreement. From these countries' point of view, the recent agreement between the air forces of Turkey and the Zionist regime is a means of pressure conceived by both countries to make independent states in the region capitulate before the expansionist policies of the Zionist regime and its big brother, the USA. Such countries certainly believe the synchronized stationing of 34 U.S. F-16 fighter bombs [as heard] in Jordan and the first squadron of the [word indistinct] Zionist regime's fighters in Turkey to be in line with the (? aggressive) policies of the Tel Aviv regime and being helped by its regional allies such as Turkey.

Undoubtedly this and other agreements like it between the occupying regime of Palestine and such countries as Turkey will have highly negative impacts on the Muslim population in the area. Muslims in the area regard the agreement as a sell-out, and because of this, the Zionist-Turkish agreement has had vast repercussions among the pro-Islamists; so much so the representative of Turkey's Welfare Party, Abdullah Gul, impeaching the country's defense minister, has described the military accord between Turkey and the Zionist regime a contradiction of Turkey's national security and sovereignty, saying that it will only infuriate the public opinion.

Of course earlier too, Ankara had faced strong opposition among Turkey's Muslims for allowing Western forces, headed by the USA, to exploit the base of Incirlik. The oppositions were in protest to the stationing of alien forces on their soil, something which is considered to be a contradiction of their country's national security and sovereignty and a factor which could give further boost to the foreign forces' aggressive intentions against the Islamic countries.

An issue which in regard to the opposition voiced by the Islamic Welfare Party to the presence of such forces in Turkey brought about an increase in the number of ballots cast in favor of that party during the parliamentary elections. Hence it can be said that the conclusion of such accords, which gave alien military forces free access to Turkey's air and soil, are nothing but the result of a blind chasm drifting the Turkish people and government apart.

Iran: Turkish Press, TV Anti-Iranian Propaganda Criticized

NC1704180396 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 3 Apr 96 p 16

[Unattributed commentary: "No Longer Confidential"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Some correspondents of HURRIYET and MILLIYET have told diplomatic circles that a conference was held with the participation of representatives from HURRIYET, MILLIYET, and SABAH and the private television channels Show-TV and Kanal-D at the Israeli Embassy before the Sharm-al-Shaykh conference in Egypt. A security official from the American Embassy was also present. The agenda of the said conference was mobilizing the newspapers and the television channels against the Islamic Republic of Iran before and during the Sharm-al-Shaykh conference and Turkish President Demirel's visit to Israel. As for the topics and raw material to be used for the propaganda, it was said that the agenda was still confidential and would be made public once plans were under way. On the whole, the conference had three objectives:

1. Propaganda attacks on Iran;

2. Weakening the Muslims in Turkey and keeping the people from questioning why the Welfare Party was blocked from ruling despite winning the majority of votes;

3. Spreading fear among the Turkish people in a bid to reduce their cultural and religious contacts with the Iranian people.

It is said that $350,000 has been allocated for this purpose and will be distributed among each newspaper and television channel in proportion to its efforts to serve these objectives. And in order to outdo its rivals in this race, HURRIYET has used $50,000 trying to obtain the pictures and details of Iranian diplomats from elements who have infiltrated the government and whose only wish to see a deterioration of the two countries' good relations. Therefore, the lion's share of the said amount has been allocated to HURRIYET. As for the mode of contact and organization of this process, extremely well-known members of the said newspapers and television channels have been in contact with the Israeli Embassy. The publication of their names will spark off a scandal in Turkey and will seriously harm their prestige.

Iran: KEYHAN on Ron Brown's Death, American Objectives in Bosnia

NC1804061396 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 8 Apr 96 pp 3, 14

[Commentary by A. Salaheddin: "The Conquerors of Bosnia's Reconstruction" — punctuation as published]

[FBIS Translated Text] We heard on the news a few days ago that U.S. Secretary of Trade Ron Brown and 33 people accompanying him were killed in a plane crash in Croatia. Among the deceased were 12 big American capitalists. And because of the demise of these "outstanding" citizens, the American Government declared a 10-day "national mourning" period. This interest by the American Government shows that these people were not ordinary people. And today, we see how both Clinton and his Republican rivals are trying to surpass one another in the race to express gratitude for the victims of this incident.

But, until a few years ago, the U.S. Department of Trade did not carry any weight in America and both factions—the Republicans and the Democrats—spoke about the abolition of this department, saying that its existence was meaningless. But today, all of them agree that Ron Brown had injected new life into the department, which had started to play an important role, particularly in creating and finding new markets for American products, hence the emphasis being placed by the American officials on Ron Brown's expertise. Ron Brown was also one of Clinton's close friends. Moreover, he was black...

When Louis Farrakhan was asked to comment on Gen. Colin Powell, the former joint staffs chief who is also black, he summed up everything in one phrase by saying that "...the whites in America like him very much!."

This phrase revealed everything. It is now clear that the American leaders also liked the black Ron Brown!

Of course, we do not intend to carry out a general evaluation of Brown. Nevertheless, we should admit that he was truly a hard-working person and visited each and every place for the sake of American imperialist interests. It is not without cause that American leaders today say that he sacrificed himself for Bosnia. This is actually very true. And not only he, but the big capitalists who had come to the Balkans to "establish peace in Bosnia" (!) too sacrificed their lives for this cause!.(!) Of course, the massacre of 200,000 Muslims was of no significance for America. For three years, they remained mere spectators and blatantly stated many times that the Bosnian crisis had not reached a stage where it could harm American interests and require them to interfere to safeguard these interests!. But when they saw that they were unable to devour this fruit!, they entered the scene and imposed the Dayton Accord, not on all the sides involved in the crisis, but only on the Muslims. This was an imposed peace, and worse than an imposed war. After the establishment of so-called peace, American imperialism entered the scene like a "hyena" and spoke about Bosnia's reconstruction. The Bosnian officials, whose country had been completely destroyed, calculated that they needed at least $16 billion for this reconstruction. The Americans held various meetings and determined the quota from Islamic countries for this! Yes. Those Islamic countries who had acted as mere spectators during the bloody incidents and tragedy in Bosnia could no longer remain spectators in Bosnia's reconstruction... They would have to pay billions of dollars for the Americans to pocket. And the deceased American Secretary of Trade and 12 American billionaires had gone to the Balkans to ensure that this objective was fulfilled.

Brown's trip, on the eve of presidential elections in America, would have been very helpful toward Clinton's re-election and in boosting the American economy. And let us not forget that Ron Brown was also head of Clinton's campaign in the upcoming elections. The Americans are propounding the death of Ron Brown and the 12 American billionaires in their press as if they had travelled to the danger zone only for the sake of helping the oppressed in Bosnia and that they were killed "in the line of serving humanity"...

The Americans allege that these people were "the great servants of peace and planners for Bosnia!.."

There is a Charlie Chaplin film in which a glass-cutter, who is out of business, pays some young mischief-makers to throw stones at people's windows and then he arrives on the scene crying "the glass-cutter is here!"

The visit by the American trade delegation to the Balkans was similar to this. Of course, Ron Brown showed great interest in Balkan and Middle East issues. A month before, he delivered an interesting speech at the annual meeting of the "Union of American Friends of Turkey" and spoke about the significance attached by America to maintaining the secularist regime in Turkey. He also spoke about the significance of the big dams Turkey has constructed or is constructing on the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, saying that these dams are destiny-making for the Middle East—that is for the continuation of Israel's life. Therefore, it is not without cause that, from the point of view of American imperialism, he was considered to be a great "lover of peace". And it is also not without cause that Clinton and all the American leaders are shedding crocodile tears for him and his entourage.

Iran: Tehran Radio Views Outcome of Velayati's Visit to Pakistan

NC1804085296 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0345 GMT 18 Apr 96

[Commentary by the News Research and Commentary Group]

[FBIS Translated Text] After two days of talks and negotiations with high-ranking Pakistani officials in Islamabad, our Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati said that relations between the two Muslim and neighboring countries are good. During his visit to Pakistan, Velayati met and talked with the Pakistani president, prime minister, and foreign minister. Velayati Delivered an invitation from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani to Pakistani leaders to attend the inauguration ceremony of the Sarakhs-Tajan-Mashhad Railway, and discussed bilateral relations and regional problems with the Pakistani officials.

In these talks, the Islamic Republic's foreign minister explained our country's stands and outlooks on various issues, including the Afghan crisis, problems of the world of Islam, and economic problems of interest to both Tehran and Islamabad. During the talks, the two sides condemned the Zionist crimes in southern Lebanon and called for a strong approach by international forums toward these savage acts of the Zionists.

Our foreign minister's visit to Islamabad took place at a time when Velayati's visit in Dey [month ending 20 January 1996] had further consolidated bilateral relations, so much so that Pakistani circles spoke of a major step in the two countries' regional relations. The great emphasis placed by the two countries' leaders on the need to expand Tehran-Islamabad relations, and remove some of the obstacles preventing a better understanding of joint political and security interests, speaks of increased insight between these two important countries in southern Asia. The growth of such understanding stems mostly from the fact that regional needs, and especially a rapid solution of the Afghan crisis far from foreign interventions, have inevitably tied Iranian-Pakistani interests together. Moreover, the existence of long lasting cultural ties between the Iranian and Pakistani nations is considered to be the major element that consolidates bilateral relations.

The Islamic Republic's invitation to the Pakistani leaders to participate in communication projects, and Islamabad's use of routes that can link Pakistan via Iran to Central Asian countries, manifest the two countries' determination to continue and consolidate joint relations.

At any rate, Velayati's visit to Pakistan comes as a continuation of Tehran's efforts to expand and deepen relations with Islamabad and is expected to create favorable grounds for the further expansion of bilateral cooperation.

Iran: Atomic Energy Chief Complains About Israeli Reactor Leaks

LD1204173796 Tehran IRNA in English 1624 GMT 12 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Vienna, Apr 12 (IRNA) — Head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), Reza Amrollahi, in a letter today to the director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Dr. Hans Blix, expressed grave concern over the ionizing radiations from a Zionist nuclear plant in occupied Palestine.

"The news of the uncontrolled release of radioactive materials from the Demona Reactor in Israel has rightly caused grave concern among the nations of the Middle East," said Amrollahi's letter, adding that "needless to say, considering the transboundary nature of nuclear accidents and their potentially hazardous nature, the agency has been instrumental in devising early notification mechanisms and environmental monitoring schemes for the purpose of minimizing the adverse effects of such accidents."

He said "the Islamic Republic of Iran, in the framework of mutual obligations and trusting your concern with regards to the violations of safety standards and the agency's norms, wishes to express its deep concern about the reported events."

Amrollahi, who is also a presidential deputy, said: "It is regrettable that the non-peaceful nuclear activities of Israel have met with total tolerance of the international organization, while the peaceful nuclear activities of Eastern European states, which are open to inspection, are being constantly criticized and scrutinized."

The letter concluded by saing that "the Atomic Organization of Iran, which has the mandate of protecting the Iranian people against harmful effects of inoizing radiations, wishes to express its grave concern towards the nuclear accidents in Israel and requests immediate and effective measures by the IAEA to contain the potential thret of continued operation of Demona Reactor."

Iran: Common Views on Israeli 'Atomic Threats' Shared With Egypt

*LD1404125396 Tehran IRNA in English
1237 GMT 14 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 14, IRNA — The new head of Egypt's interests section in Iran Ahmad 'Abd al-Meguid said here Sunday [14 April] that the common stance shared by Iran and Egypt on the atomic threats of the Zionist regime could be a very good ground for Tehran-Cairo regional cooperation.

Meeting with foreign minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here, he underlined Iran's important role in developments in the Middle East. He added the role played by Iran in this regard was undeniable and of high significance.

Referring to the threats posed by the nuclear activities of the Zionist regime to world peace and security and to the regional states, the Egyptian official reiterated the joint stance adopted by Iran and Egypt in this respect.

Velayati, pointing to the situation of the Middle East and to the aggressive nature of the Zionist regime, said the goal behind the criminal and terrorist attacks of the Zionist regime on Lebanon and its massacre of defenseless Lebanese people was to expand its domination over the region.

To realize its sinister objectives, said Velayati, the Zionist regime embarks on waging war once for a while taking advantage of conditions of the world and the region and sometimes pursues its expansionist goals in the name of peace.

Iran: Diplomat—People of Region Do Not Trust White House

*LD1804105496 Tehran IRNA in English
1025 GMT 18 Apr 96*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Damascus, April 18, IRNA — Director for Africa and Middle East of Iran's Foreign Ministry Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Kazem Khansari said here Wednesday [17 April] night that people of the region know the U.S. well and have no trust in the White House.

Stressing that the Zionists and criminal U.S. will gain nothing from the aggression upon Lebanon, he said that the Zionist leaders follow up their plans with the aim of annihilating the Islamic resistance in the region.

One of the goals of the Zionists at this stage is to create the impression that the attempts made by France and the recent trip to Lebanon of French President Jacques Chirac have failed, he said.

Khansari who is currently on a tour of Syria and Lebanon heading a delegation of the Red Crescent Society of Iran and the Imam Khomeyni Relief Committee, said the Zionist rulers have made the defenceles people victims of their inhumane attacks to gain victory in the elections.

Turning to the Islamic resistance forces of Lebanon, Khansari said the forces have launched a jihad and have stood against the Zionists to liberate their homeland.

Khansari also called for reinforcement of the Islamic resistance forces by the regional countries.

He stressed that the Zionist regime was not merely an enemy of Islam but intended to root out all Arabs.

Meanwhile, Iran's medical and food aid was distributed among 8,000 Syrian families, victims of the Zionist attacks.

Khansari announced here Wednesday that Iran will continue its aids to the Lebanese people through land and air.

He added that three tons of various kinds of medicine and foodstuffs will be dispatched to Lebanon soon.

Iran: Election Candidate Majid Ansari Comments on Policies

*LD1704174496 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
14 Apr 96 pp 1,14*

[Unattributed report on "exclusive interview" with Hojjat ol-Eslam Majid Ansari in Tehran; date of interview not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Asked to touch on the functions of the Guardian Council, Hojjat ol-Eslam Majid Ansari noted that, according to the legal duties given to it by the elections regulations, the said organization has sufficiently covered the eligibility of the candidates and screened the elections in the first round. However, due to the deficiencies in the elections regulations such as the shortage of time mistakes have crept in the recognition of eligibility of the candidates. But overall the functioning of the Guardian Council compared to the fourth Majlis elections has improved.

Further on Hojjat ol-Eslam Ansari gave his opinion on the possible future president of Iran. He mentioned the difficulty to predict the group that the future president rises from, adding that the formation of the fifth Majlis and the governing majority of it do play a role in this prediction. But the optimistic atmosphere created by one of the political groups for getting appointed to the presidential post has been mainly unrealistic and the first round of elections prove it.

Hojjat ol-Eslam Ansari reiterated that if the Jame'-ye Ruhaniyat-e Mobarez (JRM) [Combatant Clergy Association] possesses monopoly, the trend of development and social justice will be the same as the previous four years. He said the rate of recent developments in the country and the economic adjustment policies is reasonably satisfactory however some problems such as the insufficient control of the inflation and the pressure felt by the vulnerable strata of the society have been the side-effects of this trend, added by the lack of control on screening the salaries, privatization, too much attention paid to the service instead of focusing on the investment on production of the companies and finally investment in the private sector. To cut the story short the economic adjustment policies are in the need of reforms.

He reiterated that he is not a part of the Coalition of Followers of the Late Imam group, but he has been nominated by various political groups such as the Association for Defend of Values of Revolution (ADVIR) and Kargozaran-e Sazandegi [Servants of Construction], adding that his political stance is mainly similar to the two previous terms.

The Association for Defend Values of Revolution (ADVIR) have fundamentally criticized the economic adjustment policies and if they hold the majority in the Majlis, many developments are to be witnessed, although the formation of the fifth Majlis shows that a majority will not be formed in it, he said.

He further added that the Association for Defend of Values of Revolution is a familiar group known to be liberal and in the middle path of the right and left.

He noted the Kargozaran-e Sazandegi group is more of an executive group rather than being political. Their presence in the elections lied in the fact that a vacuum was felt in the electoral campaign of the fifth Majlis, and most of the groups were reluctant to render their list of the candidates, therefore the Kargozaran-e Sazandegi led the way for the sake of the revolution. Their presence encouraged the rest to become active campaigners. We can conclude that the said group is new in the domestic political scene and it is not clear that it would represent a clear and consolidated political outline.

Alluding to the Liberation Movement of Iran, he said due to various legal neglects in the past the late Imam Khomeyni strictly ruled out their eligibility for political activity; however I do not know the reasons behind the rejection or acceptance of their eligibility.

Finally he mentioned that the existence of political groups is to the benefit of the country and useful to direct the public opinion and preparation of the ground for participation of all the various strata of people in different issues. But we have to take into consideration that the skeptical history of the past groups in Iran stimulates a wave of pessimism throughout the people.

Iran: Voters Urged To Choose Fundamentalists in Second Round

LD1704152196 Tehran RESALAT in Persian
10 Apr 96 p 15

[Unattributed report: "A Member of the Ansar-e Hezbollah: Votes Should Be Cast for Fundamentalists in the Second Round"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Speaking at a gathering of students in Allameh Amini hall at Tehran University, Hoseyn Allah-Akram, a member of Ansar-e Hezbollah [friends of Hezbollah], said: The old lines no longer exist today; new lines, fundamentalists and non-fundamentalists, have been drawn.

He added: As Imam Baqir, peace be upon him, said, velayat [supreme jurisconsult] is the pillar of religion. Today there are people who are bent on attacking it.

He said: We support what the esteemed leader said about the elections; that is, do not vote for those who seek to weaken Islamic ideology with liberal ideas. We also support him in his defense of Shiite clergy and seriously believe in it.

On the views of the authorities on development, he said: The sort of development we have had in the past few years has done nothing but widen the gap between the classes and the rich and the poor.

He added: If the esteemed leader had not intervened in the second development plan we would have seen the last of many things by now.

He said: One of the gentlemen said in an interview before the new year that since the country's oil reserves will be finished in 12 years, we should speed up development, and if some people get trampled under the wheels of progress they should put up with it.

He added: If the country is to move toward development and if hard work is needed, everyone should work hard; it should not be that some people get rich in the name of progress and some people live in poverty.

He said: Before the form of development they are planning creates a huge chasm between the rich and the poor, everyone should come forth and stop it. We should not allow those who trample on social justice to become prominent.

He added: Our principles and values are based on not having ties with America and not recognizing the usurper Israeli regime. No compromise on that score is acceptable.

He said: They do not even respect the Constitution. For, according to the Constitution, 51 percent domestic shareholding and 49 percent foreign shareholding is acceptable. But they disregard the Constitution and have accepted foreign investments. Is what they claim in the national interest?

He added: Now they want to enter the Majles to implement their next plans under the guise of speeding up development.

Stressing the importance of an economy without oil, he said: Did the esteemed leader not say in his message: I have repeatedly told the government that the country's economy should not rely on oil?

He said: The Islamic revolution is a revolution for the deprived. It is based on religious ideology and shuns those who oppose religion and a religious government, and capitalists.

He added: You who did so much in the interests of capitalists, at least collect their taxes.

He finally said: We are not saying who you should and should not vote for. All we say is vote for fundamentalists.

Iran: Majles Candidate Attacks Interparty Feuding

LD1704203296 Tehran IRAN NEWS in English 14 Apr 96 pp 1,13

[Article headline: "Nuri: Leader's Instructions Are Ignored" 'Iran News' Parliamentary Desk]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran: The leader instructed that Islamic ethics and principles should be maintained during the elections, but regretfully this is not being done, Majlis candidate Abdollah Nuri said here yesterday.

Nuri, who was talking to the press at the Servants of Construction [SC] election headquarters added: "The leader instructed that each person should speak for himself and not libel or accuse others. But these days we see that Majlis candidates are rejecting each other or lampooning and degrading one another's values. Did the Guardian Council approve their eligibility?" he wondered.

The candidates, supported by Jame'eh-ye Ruhaniyat-e Mobarez [JRM], have repeatedly slandered their rivals as liberals, favoring resumption of ties with the United States and weakening Islamic revolutionary principles.

Nuri, a former minister of interior during President Rafsanjani's first term and a deputy for the second Majlis, called on the people to carefully study their candidates one by one, and not trust the list of any group or faction.

"All the financial resources of the Servants of Construction for the Majlis elections are clear and the leader has been duly informed of this, whereas the JRM blamed the SC that it was using government funds for its campaign," Nuri, an SC candidate said.

The SC has accused the head of Tehran's Justice Department, Ali Razini, of siding with the JRM in his recent remarks. Pointing to this issue, Nuri said perhaps these speeches and attacks against the SC prior to the second round of the elections are aimed "at tainting our reputation if we triumph in the elections."

Denying Razini's allegations, he said there was no explicit court order for arresting any mayor or SC official to prove that SC has misappropriated government property for its campaign. "This gives us reason to believe that such a tense atmosphere is created by the JRM to pollute the election process," he noted.

Concerning the cancellation of the elections in Esfahan constituency by the Guardian Council, Nuri said he believed that those who had won the votes were the true representatives of Esfahani citizens and the explanations given by the Guardian Council for the cancellation of the elections in that city is not convincing. "Besides, it added to our misgivings about the true intent behind such an abortive move."

Asked whether there was any chance of cancellation of the second round of the elections should the SC triumph, Nuri said such a possibility exists.

"One of the most encroaching problems in our society is non-compliance with laws and regulations. A law which has been ratified in the Majlis should be implemented and all the people are compelled to follow it," Nuri said, adding that one important mission of the fifth Majlis is to make the country a law abider in order to create a healthy society.

Reza Malekzadeh, another SC candidate and former minister of health, said the cancellation of the elections leads to public disappointment and lack of trust.

Referring to the recent statements by Ali Razini, he said other organs and election factions have violated the election law, but only Tehran's Municipality is charged with violations which have not been proved.

Narges Ramazanzadeh, a third SC candidate, said during the first round of the elections out of 137 approved deputies and with the exception of the independent candidates, 55 per cent of the winners were G-6 members against 45 per cent from the JRM.

"We have achieved our targets to a great extent in the first round of the elections," Ramazanzadeh said.

Alireza Mahjoub, another SC hopeful and the head of the Labor House, said with the most optimistic spectacles on the eye that after 4 or 5 years from now, "We will have more than 10 million young people who will enter the labour market and one of the most important duties of the next Majlis is to codify legislature for augmentation of employment opportunities."

Mahjoub said the reason he joined the SC was his firm belief in the written and progressive policies of President Rafsanjani.

Iran: Presidential Adviser Responds to Liberal Accusation

LD1704203796 Tehran BAHMAN in Persian 13 Apr 96 p16

[FBIS Translated Text] Responding to accusations made by certain groups against him, Engineer Morteza Alviri has sent a letter to Bahman, the text of which is as follows:

An Explanation of My Interview With the BBC

On 1st Azar 1374 [21 November 1995], the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance's director general for the press wrote a letter to me introducing a BBC correspondent, Mr. Phil Rees, who wanted to conduct an interview with me. He carried out two lengthy interviews with me, during which he was accompanied by a Guidance Ministry representative.

Bearing in mind that some news networks distort what one says, and, by adding other interviews or certain pictures or by omitting parts of an interview, they alter the meaning, I asked the BBC correspondent to send me a copy of the edited version of the program before it was broadcast. They promised that they would definitely do that. Later, my office also contacted the BBC twice to remind them of this. They said that they would send a copy of the program as soon as it was ready.

Unfortunately, the BBC did not keep its promise. Perhaps they were certain that the way they had edited the program and distorted the contents of the interview could not be accepted by us.

Of course, I have not seen the program yet, and my efforts to get a copy from the BBC or from Ansar-e Hezbollah have failed. What I have heard boils down to this: That in order to convey his own belief, the BBC correspondent has chosen only five small sections of the 90-minute interview with me, and put it together with other interviews and cut certain pictures into it, all according to his own taste and concept.

I should also mention that what I have said in the interview with the BBC is not anything more than what I have told the domestic press in the last three years.

I heard that a group called Ansar-e Hezbollah has used the BBC report as a pretext to portray me as a liberal, under the guise of following the eminent leader's guidelines.

I asked His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i in a letter, that if he really considered me a liberal, he should say so, so that I would then withdraw my candidacy for the Majles elections and avoid going against the leader's wishes, as well as troubling the Ansar-e Hezbollah.

Before my letter had reached the eminent leader, Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Golpayegani, the head of his eminence's office, told me: His Eminence knows you and likes you. You yourself are aware of that and do realize that you cannot be accused of such things.

Finally, His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hejazi told me on the phone: His eminence the leader has seen your letter and his opinion of you is as follows: I consider you a revolutionary, religious, and caring person.

It is regrettable that a group of people, contrary to the election law and the ban on negative propaganda against Majles candidates, allows itself to disseminate poisonous propaganda against one of God's small creatures, who is proud of serving this holy system, without any regard for the accuracy or otherwise of a report put out by a Western radio.

I commend this Koranic verse to those dear brethren: If a wicked person comes to you with any news, ascertain the truth.

Pakistan

Pakistan: Committee To Discuss Suing U.S. Over Weapons Dispute

BK1804073196 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 18 Apr 96 pp 1, 9

[Report by Shakil Shaik]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — In today's meeting of the Defense Committee of the Cabinet (DCC), top civil and military leaders will consider both political and legal options to settle the score with the United States over arms issues valued at $750 million [m], including the money paid for the 28 F-16s, sources said.

They are likely to reach a decision whether to seek international arbitration against Washington over the issue or to settle it through bilateral discussions.

"It will be a tough decision for resolving the issues linked with the $658 million paid for 28 F-16s and the money deposited for several other items under the Foreign Military Sales program of the United States," said official sources.

They, however, told THE NEWS that the DCC will be apprised about the "Statute of Limitation," which narrows the legal option and provides the time frame for suing the US government in cases related to State-to-State contracts.

DCC members, except Naval Admiral Mansurul Haq, will then give their opinion on the "most crucial matter" in the history of Pak-US relations.

The meeting will be attended by the secretary defense production, who headed Pakistan's delegation to the United States for the Financial and Program Management Review talks. A US legal firm, Patton Boggs, has already apprised the concerned quarters on the technicalities involved in taking the US to court.

One of the critical issues involved in the litigation, said government legal experts, is the determination of the exact time when the "breach of contract, or non-performance of it" had taken place.

Under US law, any aggrieved party can sue the US government within 6 years from the time when the actual "breach or non- performance of the contract" takes place. "At least it is so under the contract signed between Islamabad and Washington on the sale/purchase of F-16s," said official sources. Pakistan and the United States entered into a contract for the sale-purchase of 60 F- 16s in 1989 under Peace Gate IV plus 11 F-16s under Peace Gate III.

Both Pakistan and US legal experts are convinced that "the United States breached the contract in March 1993 when the delivery of the first batch of six F-16s was due under the contract." However, the delivery was stopped, (though the planes had been manufactured by the firm — Lockheed Martin), under the Pressler sanctions.

Historically, Pakistan fulfilled all of its payment-related obligations since the day of the contract, starting with the down payment of $70 million on 15 December 1990, followed by quarterly payments till July 1993.

The payments included: $70 million (down payment), $35 million (15 March, 1991), $43m (15 July, 1991), $52m (15 Sept, 1991), $68m (15 Dec, 1991), $85m (15 March, 1992), $90m (15 July, 1992), $85m (15 Sept, 1992), $57m (15 Dec, 1992), and $73m (15 March, 1993).

However, Pakistan stopped payments from July 1993 onward, when the US government refused to deliver the aircraft.

The United States, said the sources, has been maintaining a position that equipment was not delivered because of US law. Pakistan, however, contends that the US should have performed its contractual obligations.

Some officials say that the case is likely to be filed against the US government only for the return of F-16s funds i.e. $658m. The Brown Law provided a provision to return these funds. It reads, "The restrictions of this subsection shall continue to apply to contracts for the delivery of F-16 aircraft to Pakistan." It further reads, "Notwithstanding the restrictions contained in this subsection, military equipment, technology, or defense services, other than F-16 aircraft, may be transferred to Pakistan, pursuant to contracts or cases entered into before October 1, 1990."

According to official sources, Pakistan may seek intervention of the International Court of Justice for return of the F-16s amount, and will challenge any of the US laws governing these subjects.

In addition to the 28 F-16s, Pakistan is also disputing about $60 million worth of spare parts, standard missiles and other equipment for the Brook/Garcia class frigates that were leased to Pakistan and then rescinded.

Yet another contentious issue involves $24 million worth of night sights and modification kits for the Cobra attack helicopter.

However, just a day before the DCC meets to discuss the issue, deputy secretary of state Strobe Talbott wrote letters to members of the Congress, saying that President Clinton has decided that delivery of the military equipment that Pakistan paid for in the 1980s "provides the best opportunity to engage Islamabad in our (nuclear) non-proliferation strategy and to improve cooperation with Pakistan on such vital issues as counter-terrorism and counter- narcotics."

The Washington Post reported on Wednesday (April 17) that "The Clinton administration has approved a major arms delivery to Pakistan, and resumed granting government-subsidized loans and loan guarantees for US exports to China — two important signs that Washington will not severely punish either country for China's clandestine sale of equipment that could be used in Pakistan's nuclear weapons program."

The US Export-Import Bank board has already approved a $160 million guarantee of a bank loan for the purchase of three Boeing 767-300 jets by China's Yunan Airlines. Pakistan will also get $124 million in cash that it paid for weapons and spare parts that were never manufactured.

Official sources here interpret this new development as softening of the US stand towards China and Pakistan, but there seems no indication of totally absolving the two countries from the unfounded charges. "The US has no proof to charge China for its nuclear- related relations with Pakistan," said official sources.

In this letter announcing Clinton's decision, Talbott said the decision "is based on Pakistan's current restraint in its nuclear and missile activities."

But US and Pakistan officials said the Bhutto government had given Washington no new commitments or assurances about its nuclear program.

Pakistan has said it will curtail its nuclear program and open it to international inspection only if neighbour and rival India — which tested a nuclear explosive device in 1974 and is now preparing for a second nuclear test — does the same.

The report said the administration was trying to sell the planes to Indonesia. If that transaction occurs, the money would be given back to Pakistan.

Congress voted last year to authorize release to Pakistan of the military equipment, which previously had been withheld because Pakistan, said the report, persisted in its nuclear weapons development program. That vote was in response to an appeal from Clinton, who, after meeting with Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, declared it "not fair" to refuse to deliver equipment for which Pakistan, a poor country, had paid.

Pakistan: Senior Official Calls U.S. Arms Decision 'Vindication'

BK1804082496 Islamabad THE NATION in English 18 Apr 96 pp 1,11

[Report by Fahd Husain]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Islamabad — Pakistan has welcomed the announcement that the Clinton administration has notified Congress it is proceeding with the delivery of the military equipment to Pakistan. This equipment, which is worth $368 million had been cleared through the Brown Amendment, but last minute snags had delayed its delivery. "It is a vindication of our consistent stand," said a senior official.

For Pakistan, the value of the equipment is not that it will enhance its defense capability to a great extent but that it symbolizes a better understanding of Pakistan's position by the U.S. Pakistani officials go as far as to say that the Brown Amendment may serve as a foundation for the future relationship between the two countries. Independent observers, while agreeing with this analysis to a certain degree, say that the military equipment itself is not of tremendous value. Others have also called it "junk".

However, the Indians take a different view. According to Air Commodore (Retd) Jasjit Singh, Director of New Delhi's Institute of Defense Studies and Analyses (IDSA) the deal could mark "re-opening of the arms pipeline and reestablishment of the old strategic relationship between the U.S. and Pakistan". "It would also be a political statement," Singh is quoted as saying in a Press release. [passage omitted]

Pakistan: Editorial Denies U.S. Weapons To Cause 'Arms Race'

BK1704104296 Islamabad KHABRAIN in Urdu 17 Apr 96 p 10

[Editorial: "The U.S. Assurance and the Requirements of a Durable Peace in the Subcontinent"]

[FBIS Translated Text] A spokesman of the U.S. Department of Defense, Lieutenant Commander Scott Campbell, has said that the military equipment worth $368 million that has been withheld since 1990 will be released because Pakistan's nuclear program is peaceful. This equipment includes three P3 airplanes, Harpoon anti-ship missiles, howitzers, TOW missile launchers, rockets and various spare parts. Lt. Commander Scott made it clear that this decision does not mean that U.S. military assistance to Pakistan has been restored or some new agreement is being reached. At any rate, nothing has been said about the 28 F-16's (costing $658 million) that the United States decided to sell to Pakistan in 1990 and that have been paid for. The United States has assured Pakistan that the money will be returned after the F-16's have been sold to a third country. But the F-16's that the United States has recently been supplying to Egypt and Jordan have been acquired from other sources and the planes that Pakistan was to receive are deteriorating in Arizona due to the dust and weather conditions.

A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad has also confirmed that the United States has started working on the release of military equipment to Pakistan. Recently, Senator Brown visited Pakistan and gave an assurance that on his return he would try to get the equipment released. U.S. Deputy Secretary of States Robin Raphel is also arriving in Islamabad on Wednesday on a five-day visit. We are not in a position to say whether the announcement of the release of the military equipment was due to Senator Brown's efforts or was simply a goodwill gesture by the U.S. Administration on its own in an attempt to make Robin Raphel's mission successful. At any rate, it is satisfying that, despite a great deal of trouble, at last the United States has released the military equipment to Pakistan after a lapse of six years.

The supply of U.S. weapons to Pakistan was stopped in 1990 under the Pressler Amendment. The Pressler Amendment was passed in 1985 and imposed on Pakistan the restriction that no military assistance or military equipment should be provided to it unless the U.S. President verified that its nuclear program was peaceful. In 1990, President Bush refused to issue a certification to this effect. In January this year, Senator Brown succeeded in getting an amendment approved under which the equipment for which Pakistan had already paid was either to be supplied or the money refunded. Meanwhile, the Zionist-Indian lobby under the influence of Senator Pressler started creating doubts and suspicions about Pakistan's nuclear program. Such reports were highlighted in the U.S. media, giving an impression that Pakistan was not only enriching weapons grade uranium but had manufactured nuclear weapons too. Official U.S. sources were positive that Pakistan had "capped" its nuclear program in 1990. In this propaganda campaign it was also alleged that the PRC had supplied ring magnets to Pakistan that could be used for uranium enrichment. China denied this allegation. Now China has made it clear that the ring magnets that were supplied to Pakistan cannot be used to enrich uranium.

Recently, Pakistan expressed the intention of taking legal action in the U.S. courts for recovery of the money it had paid for the military equipment. After this, the spokesman of the U.S. Department of Defense broke the good news of the release of the equipment. Though this fresh assurance of the United States is quite encouraging, it is not clear when the United States will release this equipment and when Pakistan will get it. At this point it is also worth mentioning that in the past six years, science and technology have developed a lot and the equipment that remained withheld for six year has become obsolete. Meanwhile, the Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao has opposed the release of the withheld military equipment to Pakistan. He has warned that the supply of U.S. military equipment to Pakistan will start an "arms race" in the subcontinent and India will make every effort to counter this "threat". Narasimha Rao has said that India wants to settle all disputes peacefully, but Pakistan has adopted a hostile attitude. "We will strongly oppose the supply of weapons to Pakistan," he said. The Indian prime minister expressed his determination to oppose Pakistan while speaking at one of his electoral meetings. But we should not think of his statement merely as an attempt to acquire popular support, because India is not only planning to conduct a second nuclear explosion, it is also busy making intercontinental missiles to establish itself as a mini super-power. It is India that is continuing the hostility, the arms race, and a Cold War-like situation in the subcontinent despite the fact that all over the world the Cold War era has come to an end. India does not face any threat from small countries such as Pakistan. The smaller countries only want to safeguard their freedom and sovereignty. If India, with good intentions and sincerity, tries to settle all the disputes, then there is no reason that a durable peace, which is the dire need of the people of the whole region, cannot be established. The most important dispute between India and Pakistan is the Kashmir dispute. If India agrees to the granting of the right of self-determination to the Kashmiris in accordance with the resolutions of the UN Security Council and its own assurances to the international community and stops repeating its claim that Kashmir is an integral part of India, peace can be established between India and Pakistan.

Pakistan: Minister Says Air Force Capable of Meeting Indian Challenge

BK1704125496 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The defense minister, Mr. Aftab Shaban Mirani, has said boundaries of the country are safe and our military is capable of defending them. Talking to newsmen at Ranipur in Sindh, he said Indian planes fly in their own area and they cannot dare to cross the border. He said our Air Force is ready to meet any challenge.

He said the government is contemplating to start travel facilities in river Indus for people.

Pakistan: Israeli Raids on Lebanon Condemned, Withdrawal Demanded

BK1804031596 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan has condemned the Israeli attacks on Beirut and other Lebanese towns resulting in large-scale losses of life and property. A Foreign Office spokesman in a statement in Islamabad expressed deep concern over the continued Israeli attacks and said that they pose a danger to peace. The spokesman said that the Israeli action challenges Lebanese sovereignty. He demanded implementation of the resolution 425 of the UN Security Council and Israeli withdrawal from Lebanon.

Pakistan: Velayati, Bhutto Discuss Lebanon, Afghan Issues

LD1704160596 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, at a meeting with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan in Islamabad, discussed the latest developments of the world of Islam as well as important regional issues and ways of expanding mutual ties.

During this meeting, Mrs. Bhutto, after receiving a written message from Iran's President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, described the opening of Mashhad-Sarakhs-Tedzhen railway as an important step toward the economic growth of the region and the expansion of trade among regional countries.

Mrs. Bhutto, stressing the need for continuous cooperation between Iran and Pakistan in order to resolve the crisis in Afghanistan, praised Tehran's efforts to establish peace in that country.

At this meeting the two sides expressed deep concern about the Zionists' attacks on Lebanon.

Pakistan: 'Peaceful' Solution to Afghan Issue Agreed With Iran

BK1704145196 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan and Iran have agreed to continue efforts for a peaceful solution of the Afghan conflict based on national reconciliation among the Afghan parties and formation of a broad-based government representing all ethnic groups.

A Foreign Office spokesman said in Islamabad today at the end of Pakistan-Iran talks that during his two-day visit, the Iranian foreign minister, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, called on President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, besides holding formal talks with Foreign Office officials. These talks covered bilateral and regional issues, including Jammu and Kashmir dispute and the Afghan crisis. The Afghan problem was discussed in detail at the talks, enabling the two sides to coordinate their positions on this thorny issue.

The spokesman said that the prime minister briefed Dr. Velayati about the intensified human right violations in the Indian occupied Kashmir, particularly the systematic killings of the political leaders there. Dr. Velayati agreed that steps were needed to be taken to avoid further deterioration of the situation.

The spokesman said Mr. Velayati handed over invitations to the president and the prime minister for participation in the opening ceremony of Mashhad-Sarakhs railway link on the 13th of next month prior to ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] summit at Ashkhabad in Turkmenistan.

Pakistan: Iranian Foreign Minister Holds Meeting With Afghan Leaders

LD1704203196 Tehran IRNA in English 1922 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Pakistan, April 17, IRNA — In his meeting with Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali-Akbar Velayati here Wednesday leader of Afghanistan's National Liberation Front Prof. Sebghatollah Mojaddedi appreciated Iran's efforts for helping political groups in Afghanistan end the crisis in that country.

Dr Velayati, too, said that political settlement was the only solution to the situation in Afghanistan and called on all groups in that country to contribute to peace initiative for that country.

The Iranian foreign minister said that it was a priority in Iran's foreign policy to work ardently in bringing peace to neighboring Afghanistan and that the Islamic Republic would hold out in her efforts for that goal.

He deduced to IRNA later Wednesday that the crisis in that country could be solved solely by the concerted effort of the regional countries and that solutions proposed by outsiders would not work with that country.

Pakistan: Iran's Velayati Sees No U.S. Role in Afghan Issue

BK1704092496 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 17 Apr 96 p 1

[PPI Report]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad — The visiting Iranian foreign minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has said there is no misunderstanding between Tehran and Islamabad on the question of Afghanistan.

He was talking to newsmen at a reception hosted by the armed forces attache of Iran to Islamabad Brigadier A Hoseyn Hammaty, on the occasion of the armed forces day of Iran here Tuesday evening.

When his attention was drawn towards the enhanced frequency of American leaders' visits to Afghanistan and asked what role he visualised the U.S. could play to resolve the lingering Afghan problem, he said "they cannot help as they are not familiar with the situation in Afghanistan".

Velayati said there were only two countries which could play an effective role in bringing peace to Afghanistan and they were Iran and Pakistan.

Answering a question, he said we are trying for a rapprochement between the warring factions in Afghanistan. He termed his meetings with President Farooq Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto as positive.

Earlier, Velayati was received at the embassy by the Iranian Ambassador Mehdi Akhondzadeh. He also cut the cake to mark the armed forces day reception.

The reception was attended besides others by former Afghan President Sebghatollah Mujaddei, Federal Minister for Defence Aftab Shahban Mirani, Federal Minister for Water and Power Ghulam Mustafa Khar, former Foreign Secretary General M. Akram Zaki, chairman Institute of Strategic Studies Agha Murtaza Pooya, former Defence Minister Ghulam Sarwar Cheema, PML(N) [Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz)] leader Iftikhar Gilani and former Federal Minister Fakhar Imam.

Earlier, Velayati called on President Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari here at the Aiwan-i-Sadr Tuesday.

It was learnt that during the meeting, the two leaders discussed important regional issues, with particular reference to the latest developments in Afghanistan and the on-going efforts to bring peace to the war-shattered country through formation of a broad-based government.

Dr Velayati also delivered an invitation to the president for participating in the inaugural ceremony of the rail link between Turkmenistan and Iran to be held on the eve of the ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization] summit at Ashakabad.

Foreign Secretary Najmuddi A. Sheikh, Iranian Ambassador in Pakistan Mohammad Mehdi Akhondzadeh and other senior officials were also present during the meeting.

Meanwhile, informed sources said that formal talks between the two countries would be held at the Foreign Ministry Wednesday morning.

Pakistani side will be headed by Foreign Secretary Najmuddin A. Sheikh while Dr Velayati will lead the Iranian delegation during the talks. Afghan issue, the Jammu and Kashmir dispute and matters pertaining to bilateral cooperation are likely to figure prominently during the talks.

The Iranian foreign minister arrived here on a two-day official visit. Foreign Secretary Najmuddin A. Sheikh received Dr Velayati at the Islamabad airport.

In a statement, issued on his arrival here, Velayati said that he would hold talks with Pakistani leaders on important regional and international issues, including the Afghan problem.

He said that he would also deliver invitation to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and other leaders for participation in the inaugural ceremony of the Mashhad-Sarakhs railway line project. The ceremony will be held in Iran during the second week of May.

Pakistan: Iran's Velayati Vows Continued Efforts for Afghan Solution

BK1804054596 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 18 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Valayati has said that his visit to Pakistan has strengthened friendly relations. In an interview after two days of talks with Pakistani leaders in Islamabad, he said the two countries have identical views on international and regional issues. Velayati termed the implementation of joint projects between the two countries, including the setting up of an oil refinery and laying of a gas pipeline from Iran to Pakistan, as positive. He said that the purchase of cement and sugar plants was also discussed during his talks. He said Iran will continue efforts with Pakistan for a peaceful solution to the Afghan dispute.

Pakistan: TV Reports Bhutto's Remarks to Raphel on Kashmir

BK1704154596 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The U.S. assistant secretary of state, Miss Robin Raphel, called on Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in Islamabad today. They reviewed bilateral relations, specific to expansion in investment in Pakistan by United States companies. Miss Raphel informed the prime minister about the U.S. decision to release additional funds to Pakistan.

The prime minister conveyed her deep concern over the latest situation in occupied Kashmir and tragic killings of Jalil Andrabi, Shabbir Siddiqui, and other human right activists in recent weeks. She also condemned the attacks of Indian security forces on residence and family members of the All Parties Hurriyat Conference leaders. She expressed concern at the Indian sponsored electoral process in the occupied valley which has resulted in raising the level of oppression.

Pakistan: 2 Cooperation Agreements Signed With Jordan

BK1704152296 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 17 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Pakistan and Jordan have signed two agreements providing for the establishment of a bilateral trade committee and cultural exchange program for increasing economic, commercial, and cultural cooperation between the two countries. The agreements were signed at the end of the sixth session of Pakistan- Jordan Joint Economic Committee in Islamabad today. At the meeting of the Joint Economic Committee, Pakistan has agreed to provide technical assistance to Jordan in industrial joint ventures. The two sides reviewed implementation of Fauji Fertilizer Factory which will cost $320 million and use Jordanian phosphate. On completion, the factory will produce sufficient DAAP [expansion unknown] to meet the country's requirement. It will also produce 1,000 tonnes of urea daily.

Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka: LTTE Dispatch Notes Setbacks to Military Action

BK1704142996 (Internet) Tamil Eelam News WWW in Tamil 14 Apr 96

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial, a paper from Jaffna says: the daring attack carried out by the Black Sea Tigers inside the Colombo sea port has proved that the Tamil Eelam freedom struggle has stretched out to land and sea areas in the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo. Describing the attack as one carried out on a strategically important, maximum security area, the paper also points out that the attack inevitably raises several questions about the security and the economy of the capital, Colombo. Pointing to the fact that this attack is not only a challenge to Sri Lanka's security, but is also a blow to its economy, the paper also notes that although the Chandrika Kumaratunga government has put a veil over any reportage on the attack, it cannot conceal the effects on the country's economy, which are going to emerge step by step.

Reporting on the attack to REUTER, Lawrence Thilagar, Central Committee member of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] has pointed out that the target of the attacks will be mainly the supply routes to the troops deployed in the north as well as the consignment of weapons to Colombo from abroad. Highlighting the Sri Lankan Government's inclination to wage war, Thilagar has also noted that the recent attacks appear as a befitting reply to the action of the government troops.

Speaking at a meeting to commemorate the martyrdom of the 21 national heroes in a recent war at sea in Mullaitivu, another LTTE leader Karikalan said Chandrika Kumaratunga's attempts to establish peace through war have suffered severe setbacks. Pointing to the fact that of late Chandrika Kumaratunga has been passing disparaging remarks on the Tamils and vehemently berating Tamil groups, Karikalan has also stated that Chandrika is totally frustrated, and these slanders and tirades indicate that the government's military action plans have not succeeded.

Sri Lankan policemen arrested three young women and a young man at the checkpost on the new bridge in Batticaloa. The arrested Tamils are: Punithakumari, Mangaleswari, and Udayanthaladevi — each 18 years old — as well as a 25-year old man called Ragupathi from Kokkadichcholai. They were unjustifiably arrested while going toward the bus stand in Battticaloa for their onward journey to Kokkadichcholai to spend their New Year holidays.

Postal employees in Nedunkerni have announced that they will resort to strike action as they have not been given tires, tubes, or other spare parts for their bicycles.

Surgical treatment at Chavakachchery Government Hospital is going to be affected. Hospital sources attribute it to the shortage of doctors in the surgical unit. At present, only one doctor is reportedly working in the surgical unit of the hospital.

The Tigers' aspirations: the motherland of Tamil Eelam! Thanks.

Sri Lanka: 4 Terrorists Killed in Trincomalee

BK1604141196 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 16 Apr 96

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Four terrorists died on Sunday following a clash with the army at Kovilaru in the Trincomalee District. Several Tigers sustained injuries. The operational headquarters say that during a subsequent search, troops recovered two rifles from the scene of the clash. One soldier died and another was wounded. Tiger terrorists launched simultaneous attacks on police and army posts at Pesalai and Kalkudah in the Batticaloa District killing one soldier and wounding another. Three police constables were injured. Terrorists numbering 30 and 40 had fired mortars at the two army camps. They had retreated when police and army personnel supported by reinforcement retaliated effectively. A search operation was launched soon afterwards to crack down on the attackers. Meanwhile, an unidentified gunman believed to be from the LTTE's [Liberation Tigers of

Tamil Eelam] notorious (Tisal) gang shot dead a TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization] activist near the Valaichchenai People's Bank branch.

Sri Lanka: Editorial Warns of Latest Activity by LTTE 'Terrorists'

BK1804032096 Colombo DAILY NEWS in English 18 Apr 96

[Editorial: "Tiger Activity" — received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Although unsubstantiated so far, reports of intensified "Tiger activity" on the southern coastal belt of India should be taken seriously by both India and Sri Lanka. The assassination of former Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi by LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists clearly demonstrated the latter's ability and mad quest to destabilize India. It will be in the interests of both India and Sri Lanka therefore to step up cooperation to defeat Tiger designs.

It is no secret that the LTTE continues to enjoy the patronage and backing of some political parties and sections of the public in particularly Tamil Nadu. It stands to reason that the LTTE may be depending heavily on its safe-houses and support bases in Southern India, now that it is resorting to sea-borne attacks on Colombo. The recent aborted Tiger attack on the Port of Colombo is evidence of this new tactic. Logistical and other forms of support for the Tigers from their backers in particularly Tamil Nadu could not be ruled out, particularly in the light of past history.

So stepped-up joint surveillance between the Sri Lankan and Indian navies in the Palk Straits would be perfectly in order. With the traditional friendship between India and Sri Lanka being restored with the coming to power of the People's Alliance in Sri Lanka, increased cooperation to break the back of the Tigers should not prove very difficult.

Yesterday we quoted India's Janata Party president, Dr. Subramaniam Swamy as saying that the LTTE had despatched a suicide squad to India to eliminate five top Indian political leaders, including himself. Now that the Indian election campaign is in full swing, extravagant claims by politicians should be expected but if the chilling assassination of former Indian Premier Rajiv Gandhi in the run-up to a previous general election is anything to go by, such motives on the part of the LTTE could not be ruled out. The reason generally attributed to this killing is the former Indian premier's decision to bring the IPKF to Lanka to fight the Tigers. It is possible, therefore, that the LTTE would be seeking to get out of the way politicians who are not well disposed towards it.

There is, then, no room for complacency. State authorities on both sides of the Palk Straits would do well to consult each other more closely on this common enemy which is stalking their shores. Every allegation and report on LTTE activity should be probed and tested for their truthfulness or otherwise.

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
MERRIFIELD, VA.

This is a U.S. Government publication produced by the Foreign Broadcast Information Service (FBIS). Its contents in no way represent the policies, views, or attitudes of the U.S. Government.

FBIS collects, translates, disseminates, and analyzes foreign open-source information on behalf of the U.S. Government. Its publications may contain copyrighted material. ***Copying and dissemination is prohibited without permission of the copyright owners.***

- Bracketed indicators before the first sentence of each item describe the way in which the material was processed by FBIS.
- Headlines and all bracketed explanatory notes are supplied by FBIS.
- Personal and place names are rendered in accordance with the decisions of the U.S. Board on Geographic Names as adapted by FBIS. Unverified names in radio and television material appear in parentheses and are spelled phonetically; words and phrases in parentheses preceded by a question mark are unclear in the original and deduced from context.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION

U.S. Government Customers

For a list of FBIS products, to subscribe to an FBIS publication, or to indicate a change of address contact:

FBIS
P.O. Box 2604
Washington, DC 20013-2604
Telephone: (202) 338-6735
FAX: (703) 733-6042

Non-Government Customers

Subscriptions are available from the National Technical Information Service:

NTIS
5285 Port Royal Road
Springfield, VA 22161
Telephone: (703) 487-4630
FAX: (703) 321-8547

New subscribers should expect a 30-day delay in receipt of the first issue.